

## Uncovering Site 7NC-F-94: Results of Phase III Fieldwork

### METHODS

KSK undertook Phase III archaeological excavations at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site during the period from March to May 2007, with a return visit in August of that year. These excavations were initiated in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800), and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (Federal Register 48(190): 44730-44734). Excavation methods followed the guidelines outlined in the DE SHPO's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware* (1993).

The Phase III archaeological investigations at Site 7NC-F-94 consisted of three principal fieldwork components: 1) an initial plowzone sampling strategy; 2) mechanical stripping of the site area; and 3) feature excavation. KSK initially excavated 28 test units (Test Units 6–31 and 34) to sample the plowzone and explore the brick foundation of Wilson Farm Tenant House III (Figures 6.1 and 6.2). The excavations and mechanical stripping resulted in the identification of 104 features (Figure 6.3). Finally, three additional test units (Test Units 32, 35, and 36) were excavated to uncover a shaft feature (Feature 34) exposed near the southwestern corner of the foundation.

Test units were designated per their coordinates (N70/E120, for example) and also assigned simple numerical designations (Test Unit 1, Test Unit 20, etc.) for ease of discussion. The majority of these units ( $n=15$ ) were placed within and adjacent to the brick foundation first identified during the Phase II assessment in order to determine the structure's spatial layout (Figure 6.4); three units (22–24) were located close to the Phase II EU 3 in an effort to expose evidence of what they thought might be a second structure (Figure 6.5). An additional two EUs were placed between the brick foundation and the possible second structure location (EUs 25 and 30), while another two units (EUs 21 and 28) were situated toward the northern limits of the artifact distribution documented during the Phase II investigations; these four units were placed so as to define the extent and characteristics of the artifact concentration that extended north from the foundation (see Figure 6.5). The remaining six units were scattered throughout the yard area to the south of the foundation in an effort to identify activity areas or other structures/features (Figure 6.6).

Overall, KSK recovered 32,589 artifacts during plowzone sampling: 27,122 from Phase III units and 5,467 from the previously excavated Phase II tests. KSK also uncovered numerous historic features during sampling.

Following the initial sample, KSK removed most of the remaining plowzone, using a backhoe, to a point just above the plowzone/subsoil interface. The remaining soil was then cleaned up with shovels and trowels to expose any features (Figures 6.7 and 6.8). Not removed were several 5-x-5-foot squares within and immediately adjacent to the dwelling foundation. During and



Figure 6.2 KSK field crew performing excavations.



Figure 6.7 Backhoe stripping of plowzone.



Figure 6.8 Cleaned surface post backhoe stripping.

following the mechanical stripping, KSK recovered a total of 52 artifacts from surface contexts through grab-sampling. Once the plowzone had been removed from the site area, KSK's archaeologists turned their attention to the 104 features uncovered. Their investigations indicated that 19 of these potential features were either non-cultural in nature—rodent burrows, tree root systems—or consisted of modern postholes and backfilled shovel test pits (STPs). The remaining 85 cultural features, all of which date to the historic occupation of the site, produced a total of 6,166 artifacts (see Figure 6.3).

KSK excavated all units stratigraphically, according to natural or cultural soil horizons. All features were fully documented, then bisected and excavated by halves (or sampled) (Figure 6.9). KSK's field personnel drew and photographed the profiles of all test units or feature bisections upon their completion. They described soils observed in these profiles using standard USDA textural classifications, and recorded colors with reference to the Munsell system. Features were redocumented after the completion of each feature excavation. All soil was screened through ¼-inch-mesh hardware cloth, and all recovered artifacts were bagged and labeled according to their appropriate provenience. Photographs, using both black-and-white print film and color digital media, were taken of the general project area during the excavation of the sample units, the machine stripping, and all phases of feature excavation.

## RESULTS OF PLOWZONE TEST UNITS

### *Stratigraphy*

The five Phase II units and initial 28 Phase III units revealed a mostly uniform plowzone stratum. The average depth of the plowzone varied from around 0.55 feet to 1.1 feet thick, with the thickest plow soils occurring immediately west of (behind) the dwelling. The plowzone soil matrix across the site consisted of a dark brown (10YR 3/3) organic sandy loam (Figure 6.10) with some pebbles and was designated Stratum I, Level 1. The plowzone stratum was underlain by a heavily mottled “interface” that appeared in nearly every unit and that consisted of a brown to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/3 to 10YR 3/4) sandy loam with dark brown (10YR 3/3) mottles. This transitional zone was generally designated Stratum I, Level 2, although in several instances it was included as part of the plowzone (Figure 6.11). The B horizon exposed during these excavations was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) to pale brown (10YR 6/3) fairly compact sand loam with few pebble inclusions (see Figure 6.10), and was usually designated Stratum II. This profile was fairly consistent with the typical Matapeake soil series described in Chapter 3, differing mainly in terms of darker colors for the plowzone (10YR 3/3 vs. 2.5Y 5/2) and the absence of a leached E horizon.

### *Overview of Recovered Artifacts*

The plowzone sample resulted in the recovery of 32,589 artifacts. KSK collected 27,122 of these artifacts during the Phase III investigations. The remaining 5,467 artifacts were recovered during the previous Phase II work. The artifacts KSK retrieved during the subsequent Phase III work include historic items related to domestic activities and to the construction, maintenance, and demolition of buildings at the site. KSK also recovered a modest number of prehistoric artifacts ( $n=31$ ) from the Phase II and III plowzone units. The heaviest concentrations of



Figure 6.9 Feature 75 cross-section.



Figure 6.10 EU 19 north wall profile.

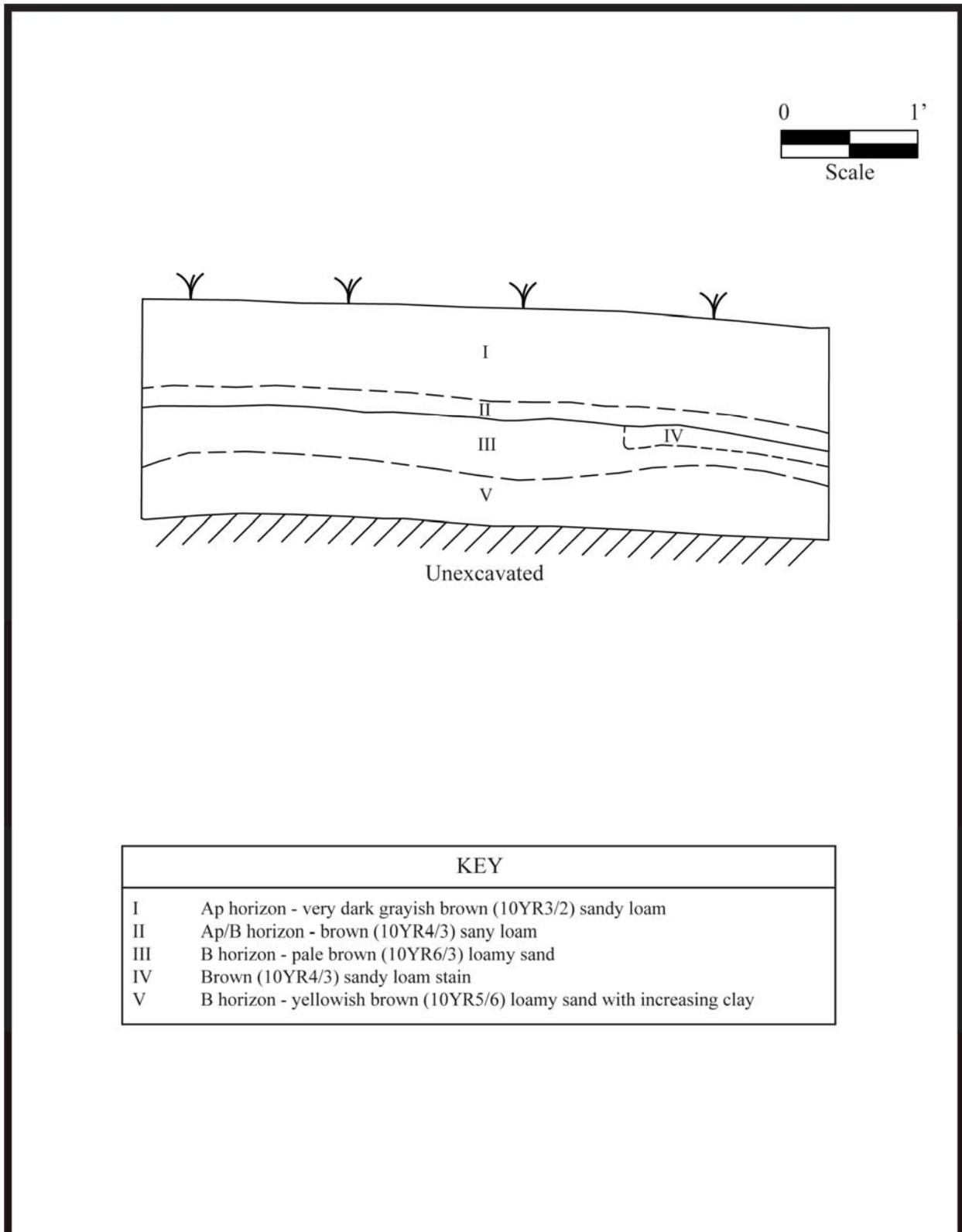


Figure 6.11 Typical soil profile, Unit 25.

material, as observed during the field investigations, occurred to the west and to the north of the dwelling foundation. The high densities of historic artifacts collected from plowzone units north of the house appeared to confirm that this had been the area where the historic site occupants had discarded much of their refuse—the “midden” first noted during the excavation of Phase II Unit 3. Rather lower concentrations of historic artifacts were noted south of the house (Morrell and Glumac 2008:5–6),

The bulk of the historic artifact collection is comprised of architectural remains ( $n=17,100$ ) and household items ( $n=11,732$ ). The household-related artifacts consist mostly of glass ( $n=9,242$ ), although a large amount of household ceramics was also recovered ( $n=2,442$ ). The ceramics include specimens of various types of whiteware, white granite, and whiteware/white granite, along with smaller numbers of Rockingham, hard paste porcelain, ironstone/stone china, yellowware, redware, and stoneware. Other household goods include metal lid and can fragments, spoons, table knives, and handle and utensil fragments. The glass household items include machine-made, mold-blown, mouth-blown, and pressed glass examples of bottles, jars, tumblers, tablewares, and other forms. The bulk of the architectural remains consist of fragments of window glass ( $n=10,177$ ). Unidentified nails, square nails, cut nails, wire nails, and spikes comprise the next largest portion ( $n=6,713$ ) of the architectural collection. The remainder of the architectural debris consists of brick fragments, mortar, plaster, roofing tile, cement, and concrete.

KSK also collected 946 faunal specimens from the Phase III sample units. Of these specimens, 245 are oyster and clamshell fragments; the remainder ( $n=701$ ) consist of whole and fragmentary mammal bones (see Chapter 7 and Appendix C). Other collected artifacts consist of over 500 miscellaneous hardware items (bolts, staples, hooks, wire, door parts, and the like), unidentifiable metal, pieces of coal and clinker, over 300 personal items (buttons, beads, comb fragments, and buckles), 146 arms-related artifacts (shell casings and shotgun shell bases), over 900 furnishings-related items (mostly lamp glass), toys, tools, and electrical hardware (see Chapter 7).

The bulk of the artifact collection recovered from the plowzone sample falls into the late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century time frame documented for the site during the Phase II investigations.

The prehistoric portion of the plowzone collection is made up of 31 lithic artifacts. Most of the recovered prehistoric artifacts consist of chronologically non-diagnostic flakes ( $n=20$ ), shatter ( $n=5$ ), fire-cracked rock (FCR) ( $n=2$ ), and unidentified ( $n=1$ ). The lithic tools we collected include a possible sandstone hammerstone, a quartz preform with notched corners, and a partial quartz projectile point (broken tip and stem) similar in shape to the Bare Island type.

Once the plowzone was removed, testing continued with the excavation of the underlying B-horizon soils. As expected, the artifact density dropped sharply in comparison to the overlying plowzone soils. KSK recovered a total of 1,060 artifacts from subplowzone, non-feature contexts. The vast majority of these (1,035, or 97.6%) were historic, with only a small number ( $n=25$ ) being of pre-Contact manufacture. In those units where datable material was recovered, there did not seem to be any appreciable difference in overall date range between these

subplowzone contexts and the plowzone. As for the makeup of the subplowzone collection, the historic artifacts mainly consist of architectural and household items in proportions similar to those noted for the plowzone.

### **RESULTS OF MECHANICAL PLOWZONE STRIPPING**

Once the sample units had been excavated, KSK began to remove the plowzone from the rest of the site using a backhoe equipped with a flat-bladed 4-foot bucket. In all, approximately 6,082 square feet of soil were removed from the site; about 2,730 square feet from the area north of the foundation, and approximately 3,168 square feet to the south. The eastern and western limits of the stripped area were determined via Choptank Road's edge of pavement and the limits of construction, respectively. The northern and southern limits were largely determined by time constraints (Morrell and Glumac 2008) rather than by Phase II artifact distributions.

KSK's archaeologists recovered relatively few artifacts ( $n=58$ ) during and after the backhoe stripping, as the excavated soils were not screened. All of these artifacts come from a general surface context or were removed directly from the backhoe's bucket. The majority of this material consisted of historic household-related items ( $n=28$ ) and was made up entirely of ceramics ( $n=17$ ) and glass ( $n=11$ ). The types of historic ceramics include ironstone/stone china, white granite, hard paste porcelain, and Chinese export porcelain. The glass consists of fragments from mouth-blown, mold-blown, and machine-made containers, and a sherd from a tumbler (see Chapter 7). Only two architectural items were recovered: an unidentified nail and a marble fragment that may be from a decorative mantel. Other artifacts collected include a marble, part of a refined earthenware ornament in the shape of a cat, iron hardware, a horseshoe, part of a harmonica, two sparkplugs, a razor, and part of a battery. Faunal remains include an oyster shell and six bone fragments.

The prehistoric portion of the collection consists of three lithic artifacts: a broken quartz bifacial preform or scraper and two quartz flakes.

### **RESULTS OF FEATURE INVESTIGATIONS/EXCAVATIONS**

The removal of the plowzone from across the site during unit excavation and stripping uncovered 104 potential features (Features 25–129). Twelve additional potential features, numbered 10 through 17 (including 15A-D), were identified during the previous Phase II assessment of Site 7NC-F-94, bringing the total to 116. A feature is defined as any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or as an artifact too large to be removed from the site. Thus, a feature can be anything other than a soil stratum or a portable artifact. Small firepits, cellar holes, chimney bases, and the like are all features that archaeologists document and then sample, excavate completely, or leave in place. On the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site, most features showed up as dark stains against the yellowish brown sandy loam of the B horizon. Fourteen of these stains were found upon excavation to be non-feature anomalies, such as old rodent burrows or decayed tree roots. Of the 98 cultural features identified at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site, 33 were recorded in plan only and not excavated. The majority of the unexcavated features were modern postholes. A complete list of all soil anomalies and features identified during the Phase II and III fieldwork is presented in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 Site 7NC-F-94, Features and Non-Cultural Anomalies**

Fea.#	Feature Type	Fea.#	Feature Type	Fea.#	Feature Type	Fea.#	Feature Type
10	Circular Post	46	Circular Post	75	Square Post	104	Oval Stain
11	Rodent Disturbance	47	Builder's Trench	76	Shallow Pit	105	Post
12	Oval Stain	48	Rodent Disturbance	77	Shallow Pit	106	Rodent Disturbance
13	Rectangular Post	49	Rodent Disturbance	78	Rodent Disturbance	107	Circular Post
14	Post Hole/Mold	50	Rodent Disturbance	79	Rodent Disturbance	108	Square Post
15*	Brick Foundation	51	Builder's Trench	80	Modern Post/Auger	109	Taproot
16	Brick Foundation	52	Stain w/metal Post	81	Square Post	110	Square Post
17	Circular Post	53	Rectangular Post	82	Shallow Pit	111	Circular Stain
25	Shallow Pit	54	Square Post	83	Sterile Pit	112	Square Stain
26	Circular Pit	55	Remnant Post?	84	Pit	113	Circular Stain
27	Rectangular Stain	56	Square Post & Stain	85	Pit	114	Oval Stain
28	Post	57	Pit	86	Linear Stain	115	Shallow Stain
29	Builder's Trench	58	Possible Post	87	Circular Post	116	Rectangular Stain
30	Pit	59	Rectangular Stain	88	Circular Post	117	Oval Stain
31	Pit	60	Rectangular Stain	89	Modern Post	118	Circular Stain
32	Pit	61	Rodent Disturbance	90	Circular Post	119	Circular Stain
33	Shallow Depression	62	Possible Post	91	Post	120	Linear Feature
34	Shaft Feature	63	Post	92	Circular Post	121	Square Stain
35	Rodent Disturbance	64	Post	93	Circular Post	122	Square Post
36	Shallow Pit	65	Rodent Disturbance	94	Circular Post	123	Rectangular Post
37	Pit	66	Post	95	Circular Post	124	Circular Stain
38	Rectangular Post	67	Post	96	Circular Post	125	Rectangular Stain
39	Post	68	Linear Stain	97	Circular Post	126	Shallow Pit
40	Shallow Pit	69	Square Post	98	Linear Stain	127	Circular Post
41	Post	70	Shallow Stain	99	Circular Stain	128	Linear Feature
42	Rodent Disturbance	71	Post	100	Shovel Test	129	Linear Feature
43	Rodent Disturbance	72	Post	101	Circular Post		
44	Rodent Disturbance	73	Modern Post	102	Square Post		
45	Rodent Disturbance	74	Shallow Stain	103	Square Post		

\*Also includes Feature 15A (interior builder's trench), 15B (shallow stain), 15C (irregular shallow stain), and 15D (rectangular stain), all identified in Unit 4.

All of the cultural features listed in Table 6.1 are shown on Figure 6.3, although not all will be discussed in detail in the sections that follow. Significant features will be covered, along with their documented profiles and artifacts. The significant features within Site 7NC-F-94 generally relate to five specific activity or spatial areas, based on the field observations and subsequent analyses (see Chapter 7): the house area and the north, south, east, and west yard areas (see Figure 6.3). Several feature types occur within each of these activity areas (i.e., pits, structural features, or postholes), and significant or representative examples of these feature types are described below.

### *The House Area*

The house area of Site 7NC-F-94 included 21 historic features: Features 15, 15A–D, 16, 17, 25, 26, 29–33, 36–38, 47, 50, 51, and 70 (see Figure 6.4). As noted above, Features 15, 16, and 17

were uncovered during the Phase II evaluation of Site 7NC-F-94; the remaining features were documented during the data-recovery excavations.

**Features 15 and 16.** Features 15 and 16 represent the remains of the house foundation (see Figure 6.4) first identified during the Phase II investigations. Feature 15, a section of the house's north foundation, was uncovered during the excavation of Unit 4, while Feature 16, a portion of the south foundation, was subsequently documented in Unit 5. Ultimately, the entire foundation was referred to simply as Feature 15 to avoid confusion and the proliferation of feature numbers. The foundation had been constructed of mortared, machine-made brick, the surviving portions of which were generally two or three courses high, enclosing an area measuring approximately 16 x 26 feet, with its long axis extending east-west (Mr. George Clough, a resident of Choptank Road, remembered that the house's doorway was located in the gable end fronting on the road). The uppermost course of brick had been impacted by plowing and many of the bricks had been broken and displaced. The base course was laid as a header row, with glazed bricks at semi-regular intervals, perhaps to create a decorative effect, although we can't know for sure (Figure 6.12). The two upper rows are two bricks wide and laid as stretcher courses in running bond, a pattern where the courses alternate rather than being laid directly on top of one another.

KSK's excavations uncovered a roughly 3-foot gap in the south foundation wall. A large, shallow oval stain (Feature 70) filled the gap and extended to either side of the wall (see Figure 6.4). It was speculated that this feature might represent a doorway (Morrell and Glumac 2008:5); however, since the foundation would have carried the framing for the house, it is more likely to have provided access to a crawlspace beneath the structure (there being no cellar or basement).

There is no evidence of a fireplace or brick chimney. Enough of the rear wall of the house was exposed during unit excavation to show that there was no hearth base tied into the western (gable end) foundation. Although two units remained unexcavated at the northeast and southeast corners of the house, and are large enough to conceal a corner fireplace at the angle of the outside walls, it is more likely that the dwelling's residents used a stove for heating and cooking.

While no artifacts were found in direct association with Feature 15, much of the material recovered from the plowzone sample units within this area were probably originally deposited inside and immediately outside of the structure.

**Features 15A, 29, 47, and 51.** Features 15A, 29, 47, and 51 represent sections of builder's trench associated with the brick foundation. Feature 15A was uncovered adjacent to the interior of the north foundation in Unit 4 during the Phase II investigations (see Figure 6.4). The trench was shallow, only 0.2 feet deep, roughly 0.6 feet wide, and contained a matrix of brown (10YR 5/3) sandy loam; no artifacts were recovered. The feature continued to the east and was documented in Phase III Units 7 and 10, both of which overlapped the foundation. By the time of the data-recovery investigation, it had been decided to renumber the trench, and it was therefore assigned feature number 29. In both Unit 7 and Unit 10, the trench fill consisted of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) loamy sand/sandy loam, and in both units the feature extended approximately 0.9 feet from the interior face of the foundation. The maximum depth of Feature 29 in Unit 7 was 0.35 feet, while excavation in Unit 10 encountered the base of the trench at 0.3



Figure 6.12 Foundation remains in foreground.

feet below the base of the plowzone. Feature 29 was also identified extending along the interior of the south foundation wall, in Unit 31. Here it was only 0.4 feet wide and extended just 0.21 feet into the B horizon. Feature 29 did not appear elsewhere along the south foundation, in either Unit 8 or Phase II Unit 5, or in Unit 16 near the northeast corner of the structure. Only a small number of artifacts ( $n=35$ ) was recovered from Feature 29: 17 pieces of mortar, a brick fragment, three unidentified nails, a fragment of window glass, part of a glass canning jar (terminus post quem [TPQ] 1850), container glass, sherds of a mold-blown liquor bottle, a sherd of whiteware, and a fragment of a glass lamp chimney.

KSK did find evidence of a builder's trench adjacent to the interior side of the east foundation wall. Designated Feature 47 (see Figure 6.4), it proved to be roughly 0.65 feet wide and 0.5 feet deep. The fill consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) sandy loam. KSK did not find any firm evidence for a corresponding feature along the inside of the western foundation. A handful of artifacts ( $n=33$ ) was collected from Feature 47, including brick and mortar fragments, an unidentified nail, iron fragments, a small black glass bead, and bottle and window glass. None of this material is datable.

Finally, excavation adjacent to the east foundation (Unit 17 [interior] and Unit 18 [exterior]) uncovered evidence for a builder's trench along the exterior wall (see Figure 6.4). The trench segment, designated Feature 51, was first noticed in Unit 17, which just barely extended past the exterior face of the foundation. When Unit 18 was opened to the northeast, KSK was able to obtain a cross-section of the feature that measured 0.4 feet wide and extended to depth of 0.25 feet below the base of the plowzone. The feature matrix consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) loamy sand with pale brown (10YR 6/3) mottling. Of the 89 artifacts collected from the feature, 60 were found in Unit 17; nearly all of the Unit 18 artifacts consisting of brick fragments from a flotation sample. The rest of the Feature 51 collection includes 14 canning jar lid liner fragments, two oyster shells, brick, mortar, what may be part of a harmonica, hardware, wire, unidentified nails, canning jar fragments (TPQ 1925), fragments of pressed glass tableware, ceramics, a porcelain button, and a faceted glass bead. The 20 ceramic fragments consist mainly of whiteware (gilt, banded, floral hand-painted, and underglaze decal), yellowware, Rockingham, and three fragments of what appears to have been a figurine.

**Features 15B and 15C.** Two shallow irregular stains were found inside the foundation in EU4. Feature 15B encompassed the northwestern corner of the foundation and produced six architectural items, a piece of container glass, and three mammal bones and two mammal teeth. A prehistoric jasper flake was also recovered. Feature 15C covered much of the southeastern corner of the block and contained only a square nail and a piece of window glass.

**Features 15D and 17.** Both of these features were small rectangular stains. Feature 17 was located in the southeast corner of the foundation and appeared to be a posthole. Feature fill contained five pieces of window glass and a mammal tooth. It may have post-dated the building. Feature 15D was located in the northwest corner. A nail and two buttons were found in the feature fill.

**Feature 26.** Feature 26 was a pit situated immediately inside the structure and adjacent to a 3-foot gap in the middle of the south foundation (see Figure 6.4). This feature was oval in plan, measuring 0.96 x 1.05 feet, and exhibited fairly straight side walls; it extended to a depth of 0.84

feet below the top of the exposed B horizon (Figure 6.13). The feature matrix consisted of brown (10YR 5/3) fine sandy loam with some pebbles. It was the artifact content of Feature 26, however, which was of particular interest: among the 121 artifacts are a horseshoe, an iron axe head, an iron water pipe, an aluminum lid, a bullet, bricks, sandstone fragments, window, a tumbler (TPQ 1908), mirror glass, bone fragments, and ceramic sherds. Although these artifacts are broadly representative of the material encountered throughout the site, they are noteworthy for the possibility that they were deliberately buried, if not deliberately arranged. The horseshoe appears to be supported in a more or less horizontal position by an underlying brick. Another, upright brick stands between the horseshoe's heels, which are aligned with the edge of the upright axe head that also seems to have been propped in position using the adjacent and underlying brick fragments (Figure 6.14). Although we thought that these artifacts, at least the larger ones at any rate, might have been used to prop up a post, there was no evidence in the field data to indicate this. There was no trace of a posthole or postmold in Feature 26. It would appear that the artifacts, or at least the larger ones, had been purposely arranged in this configuration, with many of the smaller items possibly included as part of the feature fill. While we will discuss the possible significance of this feature later, in Chapters 7 and 8, suffice it to say that it was the most intriguing—and possibly the most important—feature uncovered at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site.

**Feature 70.** This feature, first uncovered in Unit 8, was ovoid in plan, measuring 3.15 feet (north-south) by 2.2 feet (east-west) (see Figure 6.4). It extended at least an additional foot south into Unit 34. Feature 70 had been intruded into by Feature 26, the pit discussed above, indicating that Feature 70 is the earlier of the two (Figure 6.15). KSK archaeologists bisected Feature 70 along a north-south line, excavated the western half, followed by the eastern half of the pit. The soil matrix of Feature 70 was a loosely textured dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam. Feature 70 proved to be shallow, lenticular in cross-section, and thickest (approximately 0.18 feet) toward the south, where it extended into Unit 34. The artifact content was low, with the feature yielding a total of 24 finds. Among these finds are architectural items ( $n=17$ ) mainly consisting of window glass, along with a cut nail, a wire nail (TPQ 1875), and four brick fragments. Household artifacts are few in number and include several fragments of container glass. Unidentifiable iron fragments, a sherd of lamp chimney glass, a piece of slate, a copper alloy wheel, and a fragment of petrified wood round out the collection. As noted above, Feature 70 was interpreted as an entrance to the crawlspace beneath the building.

**Feature 25.** Feature 25 was located in Unit 8 just to the northeast of Feature 70 (see Figure 6.4); it was not documented in Phase II Unit 5. Bisected by the boundary between Units 5 and 8, the feature appears hemispherical and measures 2.21 feet north-south and 2.18 feet east-west. The feature was shallow and basin shaped, extending to a maximum depth of 0.17 feet (Figures 6.16 and 6.17). The soil excavated from Feature 25 consisted of a, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sandy loam that yielded a total of 174 artifacts. Of these, more than half ( $n=99$ , or 56.8%) consist of architectural items, including 78 pieces of window glass, 19 nails (all unidentifiable), a brick fragment, and a piece of roofing slate. Household-related artifacts ( $n=34$ , or 19.5%) consist almost entirely of glass bottle fragments, together with a sherd of pattern-molded glass tableware and a single fragment of pearlware. Other artifacts include an iron horseshoe, a 1905 Indian head penny, lamp chimney glass, bone, shell, and unidentifiable iron fragments. A TPQ of 1924 was derived from a bottle base (Diamond Glass Company, Royersford, Pennsylvania).

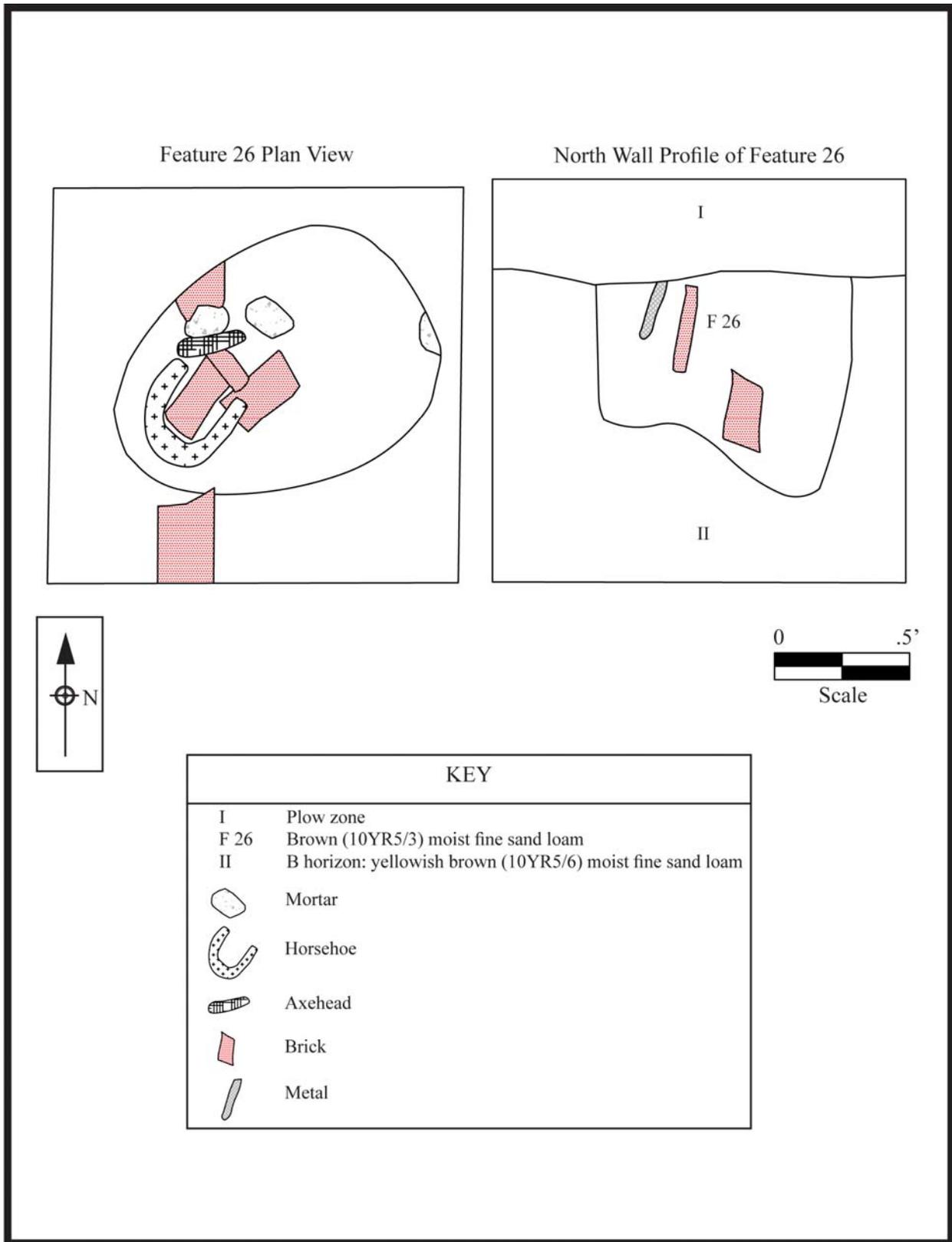


Figure 6.13 Feature 26 plan view and profile.



Figure 6.14 Feature 26 plan view.

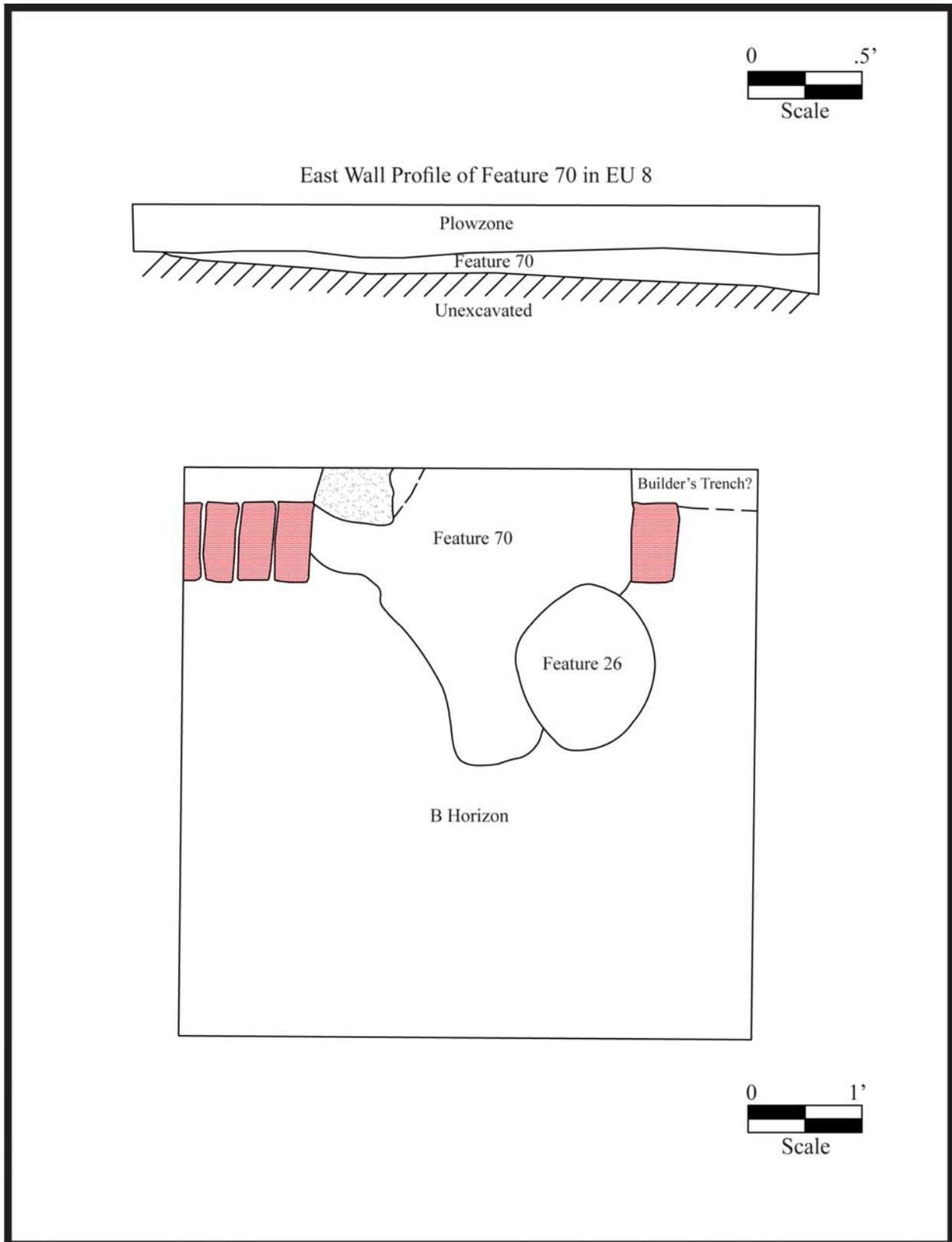


Figure 6.15 Feature 70 plan view and profile.

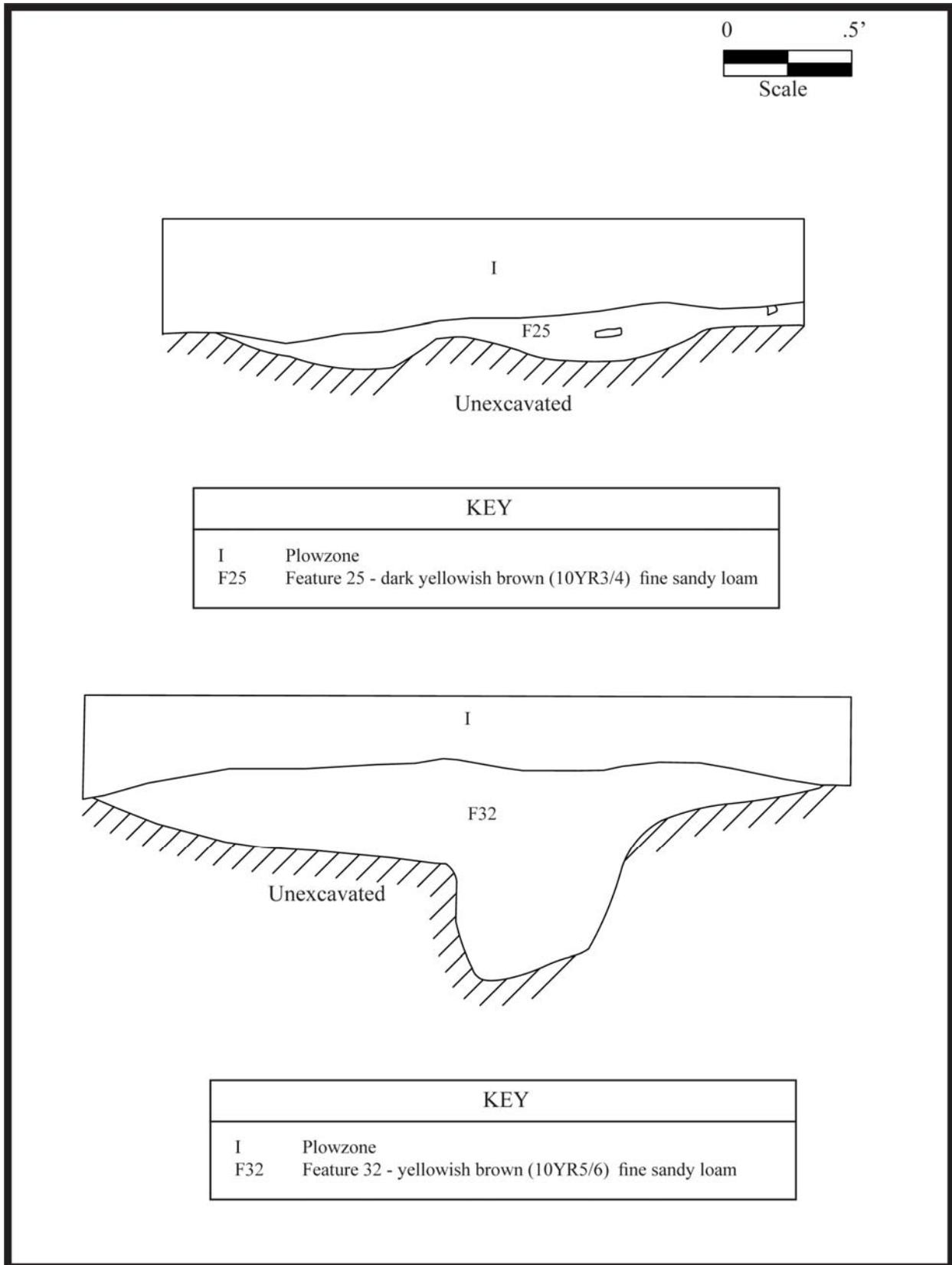


Figure 6.16 Features 25 and 32 profiles.



Figure 6.17 Feature 25 plan view.

**Feature 30.** This feature was an irregularly shaped pit that had been partially exposed in Unit 12 and that extended into the unexcavated block to the west (see Figure 6.4). The excavated portion of the feature measured 2.88 feet (north-south) by 1.22 feet (east-west). KSK bisected Feature 30 on its east-west axis and removed the north half first. The feature fill consisted of dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy loam with some dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) mottling, that extended to maximum depth of 0.43 feet below the top of the B horizon. Only a handful of artifacts were recovered, including nails (mostly unidentifiable), container glass, brick, window and lamp glass, and bone. The single fragment of container glass provides a TPQ of 1864 for the feature.

**Feature 32.** Forming an irregular Z-shape in plan, Feature 32 extended across the northeast corner of Unit 12 (see Figure 6.4; Figure 6.18). The northern arm of the feature, measuring 0.77 feet north-south and 1.52 feet east-west, was bisected along its east-west axis; the northern portion, consisting of a dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine sandy loam, was removed first. In profile, Feature 32 appeared lenticular, except for the center of the feature, where it sloped down sharply to form a pit (see Figure 6.17). The base of the feature was reached at 0.83 feet below the top of the B horizon. The KSK archaeologists recovered 76 artifacts from Feature 32. Over half of these artifacts are brick fragments, while nails and flat glass bring the architecture group total to 44. The rest of the collection consists of unidentifiable iron fragments, a Vulcanite lice comb, lamp chimney glass, bone fragments, household glass and ceramics, and part of a porcelain doll head. The TPQ of 1875 is provided via a wire nail.

**Feature 33.** Feature 33 was located in the northwest corner of Unit 13 (see Figure 6.4). The eastern edge of the feature was cut by a modern post, while the western portion of Feature 33 was not uncovered, since it extended into one of the unexcavated units that remained within the foundation. The remnant feature, as exposed in Unit 13, was bisected on a north-south line and the eastern half excavated first. The feature fill consisted of a brown (10YR 4/3) loamy sand with some pale brown (10YR 6/3) mottling, and extended to a depth of only 0.15 feet. As shown in Figure 6.15, Feature 33 was a shallow basin with gently sloping sides. Artifacts collected from the fill consist of two bottle glass fragments (TPQ 1864)

**Feature 37.** Uncovered along the eastern edge of Unit 15, Feature 37 appeared semicircular in plan, with its eastern portion extending into the unexcavated square occupying the northeastern corner of the foundation (see Figure 6.4; Figure 6.19). The feature, as exposed in Unit 15, measured 1.5 x 1.05 feet. KSK bisected Feature 37 along its shorter east-west axis and removed the southern half of the fill first—a brown (10YR 4/3) sandy loam. The feature, which was roughly basin-shaped in profile (with some rodent disturbance along the north edge) extended to a maximum depth of 0.8 feet below the base of the plowzone/B-horizon interface. As with many of the features within the house area, the artifact total from Feature 37 was modest, consisting of 102 items. These items include architectural artifacts (brick fragments, window glass, and nails), unidentifiable iron, household items (mostly container glass), lamp chimney glass, and faunal remains. Several fragments of mold-blown container glass provide a TPQ of 1864 for the feature.

### *The North Yard*

Phase II and III investigations uncovered 36 features in the yard space north of the house foundation: 10, 13, 27, 28, 52–60, 67–69, 71, 85, 88–91, 99, 113–116, 118–120, 122–124, 126, 128, and 129. The feature locations are shown on Figure 6.5.



Figure 6.18 Feature 32 plan view.



Figure 6.19 Feature 37 plan view.

KSK identified several features north of the house foundation that might have been related to other structures—Features 115, 116, 126, and 120, and Features 128 and 129. Feature 120, uncovered during the machine stripping, was a narrow, linear stain that extended perpendicular to the dwelling foundation. It was 17.5 feet long and varied in width from 1 to 2 feet (Figures 6.20 and 6.21). Once the feature was shovel scraped and cleaned, KSK archaeologists noted a number of nail fragments scattered along its top surface. A short, 1-foot-wide cross-section was taken of the feature, which proved to be only 0.15 feet deep. The soil matrix consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) loamy sand with some pale brown (10YR 6/3) mottling and yielded a small number of artifacts ( $n=8$ ), including a fragment of white granite, mold-blown container glass (TPQ 1864), window glass, an unidentifiable nail, mortar, and sheet metal. The function of Feature 120 is unclear. No evidence of posts or other structural remains was uncovered, so it does not appear that the feature represents part of a substantial building, although it is possible that it was the location of a sill beam laid directly on the ground or in a shallow trench. However, no corresponding, parallel feature (or intersecting features) was uncovered during the investigations. Since Tenant House III was the northernmost of the three Wilson Farm tenant houses (see Figure 4.2), the features do not represent one of the other tenant houses on the farm. Feature 120 is most likely the remains of a fence line or drainage ditch.

**Feature 68.** Feature 68 may have been a southern extension of Feature 120 (see Figure 6.5). Uncovered in Unit 30, the feature did not appear when the site was subsequently stripped. Feature 68 extended for 5 feet along the east side of the unit and was 1.25 feet wide at its widest. How far to the east it may have extended is unknown. The soil matrix was identical to that in Feature 120 and extended to the same depth (0.15 feet) below the base of the Stratum I/subsoil interface. The feature was bisected and completely excavated, yielding 39 artifacts, the majority ( $n=25$ ) of which are architectural (window glass, mortar, and cut and unidentifiable nails). Other items include ceramics (whiteware and unidentified refined earthenware), container glass (a fragment of which provided the TPQ of 1864), two lamp chimney fragments, an iron hinge, and copper alloy electrical hardware.

Features 115, 116, and 126 extend in a line almost exactly perpendicular to Feature 120 (see Figure 6.5), but do not intersect with it. Feature 115 was initially mapped as a 7-foot-long, roughly 1-foot-wide stain that extended past the western edge of the machine-stripped area. Upon excavation, it proved to be an oval stain measuring 1.7 x 2.25 feet across, lenticular in profile and only 0.12 feet deep (Figure 6.22). The feature was bisected and the north half removed first. The soil matrix, a very dark brown (10YR 2/2) compact sandy loam, yielded only 11 artifacts. These items include three fragments of mold-blown container glass (1864 TPQ), three unidentifiable nails, a piece of lamp chimney glass, and three fragments of white granite. Feature 116, the next in line, was not excavated. Feature 126, located 5 feet east of Feature 116, was—like Feature 115—initially mapped as a rectangular stain. Excavation, however, revealed a circular pit or depression measuring 1.55 feet north-south and 1.58 feet east-west. The feature was bisected along its east-west axis and the southern half excavated. The fill consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sandy loam that extended to a depth of 0.31 feet below the base of the plowzone. No artifacts were recovered. Based on the excavation of features 115 and 126, what initially appeared to represent a fence line or possible structural wall proved to be the fortuitous alignment of unrelated features.

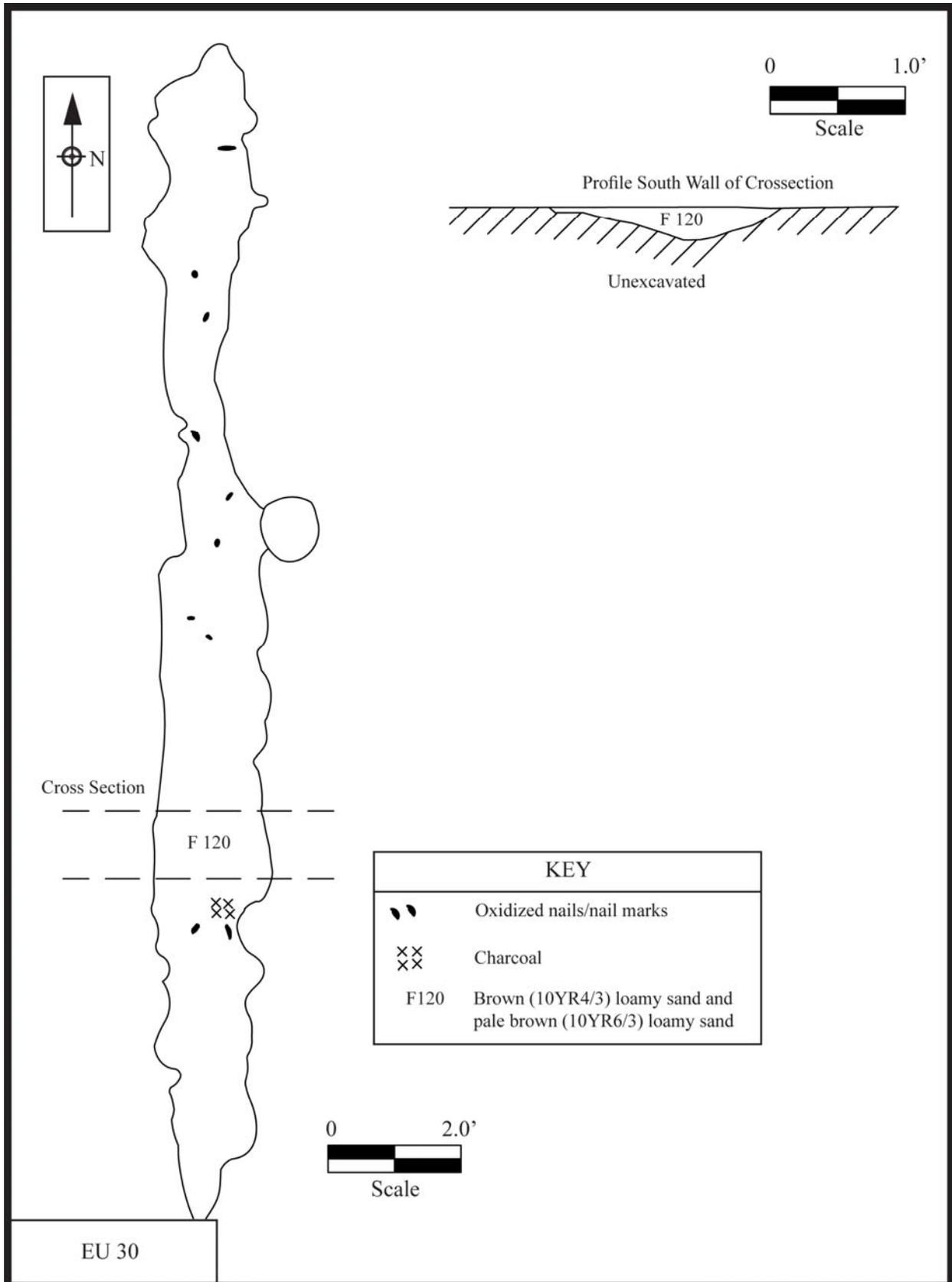


Figure 6.20 Feature 120 plan view and profile.



Figure 6.21 Feature 120 plan view.

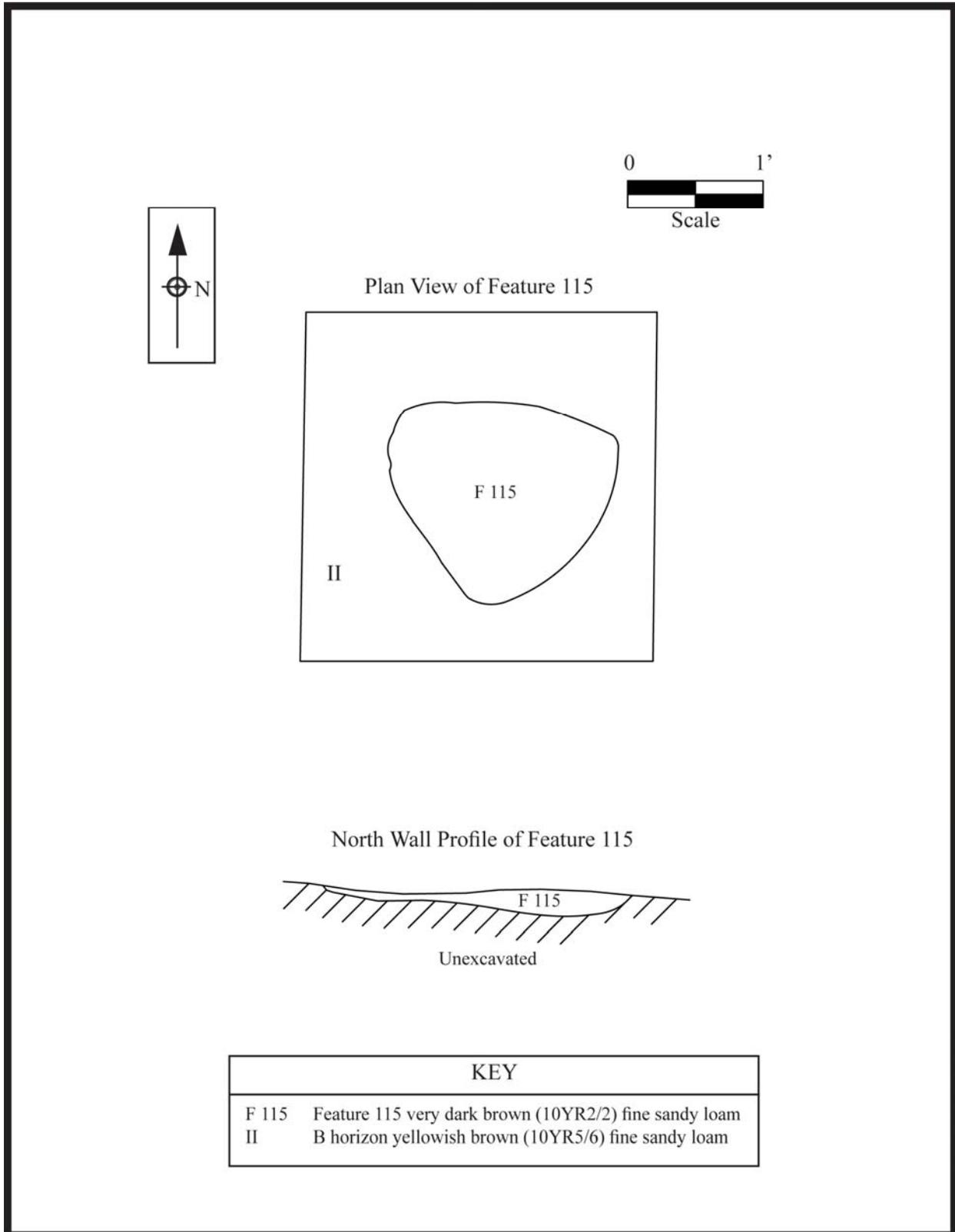


Figure 6.22 Feature 115 plan view and profile.

**Feature 128.** Feature 128 was an L-shaped linear stain near the extreme northern end of the site (see Figure 6.5). Revealed during the machine stripping of the plowzone, its east-west leg measured approximately 17.5 feet in length, while its north-south leg measured approximately 8 feet long. The width of the stain varied from 1 to 1.25 feet. The long axis of the feature extended roughly parallel with the dwelling foundation to the south. As with Feature 120, excavation revealed the stain to be rather shallow, no more than 0.15 to 0.2 feet deep. Unlike that feature, no nails were observed on the upper surface of Features 128 or 129 (see below).

**Feature 129.** Feature 129 was located north and west of Feature 128, and extended in a north-south direction parallel with the northern leg of Feature 128 (see Figure 6.5). Based on the plan view of the two features, Feature 129 had at one time extended north from Feature 128. The remnant portion of Feature 129 was approximately 7 feet long, and appeared to form a corner at its northern end. Like Feature 128, Feature 129 was quite shallow, generally no more than 0.15 feet deep.

When Features 128 and 129 were first exposed, the initial impression was that they might be related to a building. However, the absence of architectural materials, such as brick (which would suggest a footing) or posts, indicates something rather less substantial. Features 128 and 129 might have been a lightly fenced enclosure or ditching around a garden plot. Features 128 and 129 appear to be associated with each other and may also represent shallow foundation trenches for an outbuilding. No artifacts were recovered from either trench.

**Feature 59.** Feature 59 was a triangular stain uncovered in Unit 21, just south of Features 115 and 116 (see Figure 6.5). Most of the feature appeared to have extended into the east wall of the unit, but was not seen once the north block was machine stripped. The feature, as it appeared in Unit 21, measured 3.1 feet north-south by 0.8 feet east-west. KSK bisected Feature 59 on a roughly north-south line and excavated the west half first. The feature fill proved to be 0.16 feet thick and consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy loam with some charcoal flecking. As was typical of many of the features excavated at the Wilson Farm Tenancy, Feature 59 yielded a small number of artifacts, including a Winchester 22-caliber shell casing (providing a TPQ of 1887), a fragment of undecorated white granite, square nails, wire nails, an iron buckle, window glass, and sherds of Rockingham.

**Feature 60.** The removal of the plowzone from Unit 21 also uncovered Feature 60, a rectangular stain adjacent to and south of Feature 59 (see Figure 6.5). Like Feature 59, it did not appear following the mechanical plowzone stripping. As exposed in Unit 21, Feature 60 measured 1.7 feet north-south and 1.05 feet east-west. Bisected on an east-west line, the feature proved to be nearly a foot deep, with steeply sloping sides. Based on its shape, Feature 60 appeared to have been a posthole; however, no postmold was observed. The feature matrix consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) sandy loam with pockets of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy loam. The fill yielded a small collection of artifacts: fragments of window glass, white granite (TPQ 1840), oyster shell, unidentifiable nails, slate roof tile, brick, and unidentifiable iron fragments.

**Feature 56.** Feature 56 was exposed in Unit 24, about 27 feet north of the house foundation, and was a square posthole with postmold (see Figure 6.5). The feature was encountered directly underneath the plowzone and measured 2.55 x 2.55 feet, with the postmold offset slightly to the

east. The postmold, with its long axis oriented northeast-southwest, measured approximately 1 x 0.65 feet. KSK archaeologists bisected Feature 56 on a north-south line that just clipped the postmold near its western edge. The posthole extended to a depth of 0.4 feet below the top of the B horizon, while the postmold continued to more than a foot deeper. A small number of artifacts were collected from both the postmold and posthole. The posthole yielded three square nails, a sherd of container glass, and a fragment of whiteware (TPQ 1820), while the surrounding posthole produced two fragments of window glass, four square nails, unidentified nails, container glass, a bolt, and a whiteware fragment (TPQ 1820).

**Feature 57.** Uncovered in Unit 23, Feature 57 was an oval-shaped pit, with its long axis oriented east-west, and measuring 1.58 x 1.39 feet (see Figure 6.5). It was bisected along its east-west axis and proved to be 0.52 feet deep. Feature 57 contained fill composed of a very compact dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sandy loam that yielded a small collection of artifacts ( $n=8$ ), including four oyster shell, an unidentifiable nail, two container glass fragments, and a sherd of Rockingham (TPQ 1812).

**Feature 85.** Feature 85 was a pit located approximately 15 feet north of the dwelling foundation's northwestern corner (see Figure 6.5; Figure 6.23). Documented during the machine stripping, the feature was roughly circular, measuring 1.9 x 1.8 feet. It was bisected on an east-west line and the north half was removed first. Feature 85 proved to be bowl-shaped in profile, with a maximum depth of 0.55 feet below the top of the B horizon (Figure 6.24). The fill consisted of dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy loam. KSK recovered a total of 124 artifacts from the feature; these largely consisted of architectural items ( $n=44$ , or 35.5%), household-related artifacts ( $n=35$ , or 28.2%), and functionally unidentifiable items (mostly metal— $n=27$ , or 21.8%). The architectural materials include the usual brick fragments, pieces of window glass, and nails (the later consisting of cut and wire varieties), as well as unidentifiable specimens. Household-related artifacts from the feature include glass and ceramics—white granite, whiteware, Rockingham, ironstone/stone china, and stoneware with a Bristol slip glaze. The latter supplied the TPQ of 1880 for Feature 85. Other household artifacts include mold-blown container glass, zinc canning jar lid fragments, and a milk glass canning jar lid liner. Three personal items (a porcelain button, a light blue glass bead, and a minute white glass bead), two furnishings-related items (lamp glass), and faunal remains (bone and shell, including part of a turtle carapace) were also collected from the feature.

**Feature 13.** First noted in Phase II Unit 2, and fully exposed in the northwest corner of Phase III Unit 7 (see Figure 6.5), Feature 13 was a rectangular posthole that measured 0.95 feet north-south and 0.54 feet east-west. It was excavated to depth of 0.68 feet below the base of the plowzone, the fill consisting of dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty sandy loam. KSK recovered only 10 artifacts from the feature, including five container glass sherds (two of which are mold-blown and provide the TPQ of 1864), two fragments of lead glass tableware, and three unidentifiable nails.

**Feature 27.** Feature 27 was located about 3 feet south of Feature 13 and up against the foundation (Feature 15). It was rectangular, measuring 1.3 feet east-west and 0.7 feet north-south. The feature was bisected on a north-south line and the eastern half removed first. As with many of the features on the site, Feature 27 was shallow, only extending 0.25 feet below the top



Figure 6.23 Feature 85 plan view.

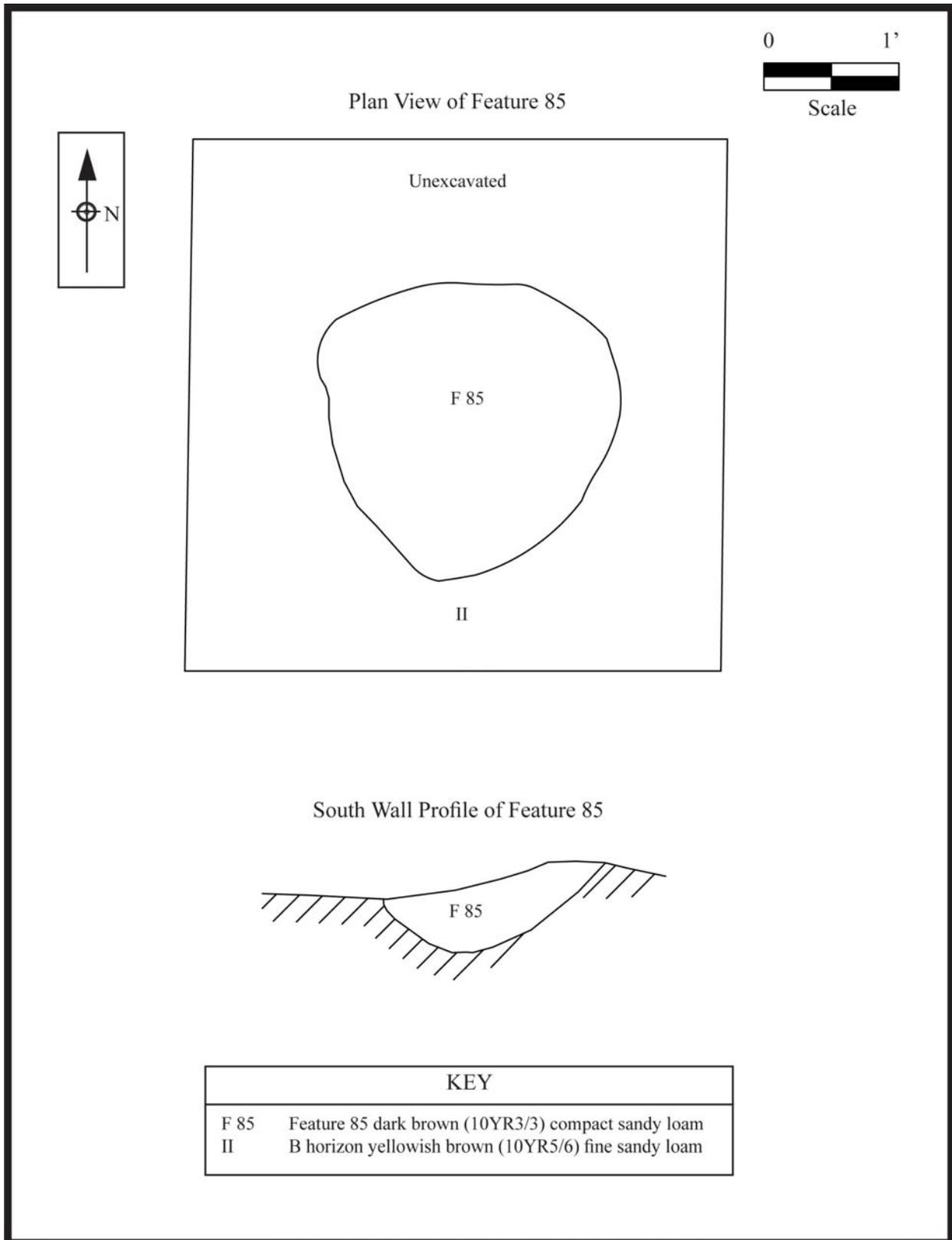


Figure 6.24 Feature 85 plan view and profile.

of the truncated B horizon. Only three artifacts were recovered—a fragment of glass and two pieces of mortar.

**Feature 28.** Feature 28 was a posthole uncovered in the eastern half of Unit 7 (see Figure 6.5). When first exposed following the removal of the plowzone, it appeared to be circular in plan, with a large brick fragment in its western half extending up past the top of the stain. Feature 28 measured 0.65 feet in diameter. Excavation showed that the posthole, which extended to a depth of 0.6 feet below the base of the plowzone, assumed a more squared-off appearance, with a narrow tapered bottom (Figure 6.25). While it is quite likely that the brick, set on its end, was used to support a post, there was no evidence of a postmold. The feature fill consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) sandy loam mottled with light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty loam. The feature was bisected into east and west halves. The east half yielded five pieces of window glass, a fragment from a mineral water bottle, part of a mold-blown bottle (TPQ 1864), and a whiteware rim sherd. From the west half, KSK recovered five window glass sherds, a pressed glass tableware fragment (TPQ 1864), the brick bat, coal, and a whiteware sherd.

### *The South Yard*

Unit excavation and machine stripping south of the foundation resulted in the identification of 24 features: 63, 64, 66, 72, 74, 75, 82–84, 86, 92–98, 104, 107, 108, 110–112, and 127 (see Figure 6.6). A number of these feature were not excavated and none produced anything other than small quantities of artifacts. Perhaps the most notable of the features found in the south yard are the long linear stains designated Features 74 and 86.

**Feature 74.** First documented in Unit 20, Feature 74 extended southeastward from the southeast corner of the foundation (see Figure 6.6). It ran for approximately 15 feet before turning eastward at the edge of the stripped area. It varied in width from 1.6 to 2.3 feet. The excavation of the northern end of the feature in Unit 20 showed it to be rather shallow—only 0.19 feet thick—with fill consisting of dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy loam including sizeable quantities of charcoal and burned wood (approximately 20% of the soil by volume). Artifacts were sparse and included a single fragment of window glass and a few small brick fragments. The southern end of the feature proved to be somewhat deeper, extending to 0.64 feet below the top of the B horizon. The soils here were heavily mottled, consisting of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) fine sandy loam and dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6 and 10YR 3/4) fine sandy loam. No artifacts were found at Feature 74's southern end. Based on its configuration and depth, this feature appears to have been a rodent burrow.

**Feature 86.** Feature 86 was uncovered during the mechanical removal of the plowzone. The feature consisted of a pair of narrow dark stains, designated 86A and 86B, that extended in an east-west direction 40 feet across the south yard—roughly 20 to 25 feet from the dwelling foundation (see Figure 6.6). Feature 86A, the wider of the two stains, consisted of dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with a number of nails and metal fragments protruding from the eastern half of its surface (much like Feature 120, north of the house), while the matrix of 86B was a brown (10YR 5/3) silty sand (Figures 6.26 and 6.27). Both were fairly shallow, with Feature 86A extending 0.2 feet below the top of the B horizon and Feature 86B measuring 0.35 feet thick. KSK recovered six artifacts from 86A, including two canning jar fragments (TPQ 1869), two window glass sherds, an unidentifiable nail, and a plastic shoe heel fragment; only

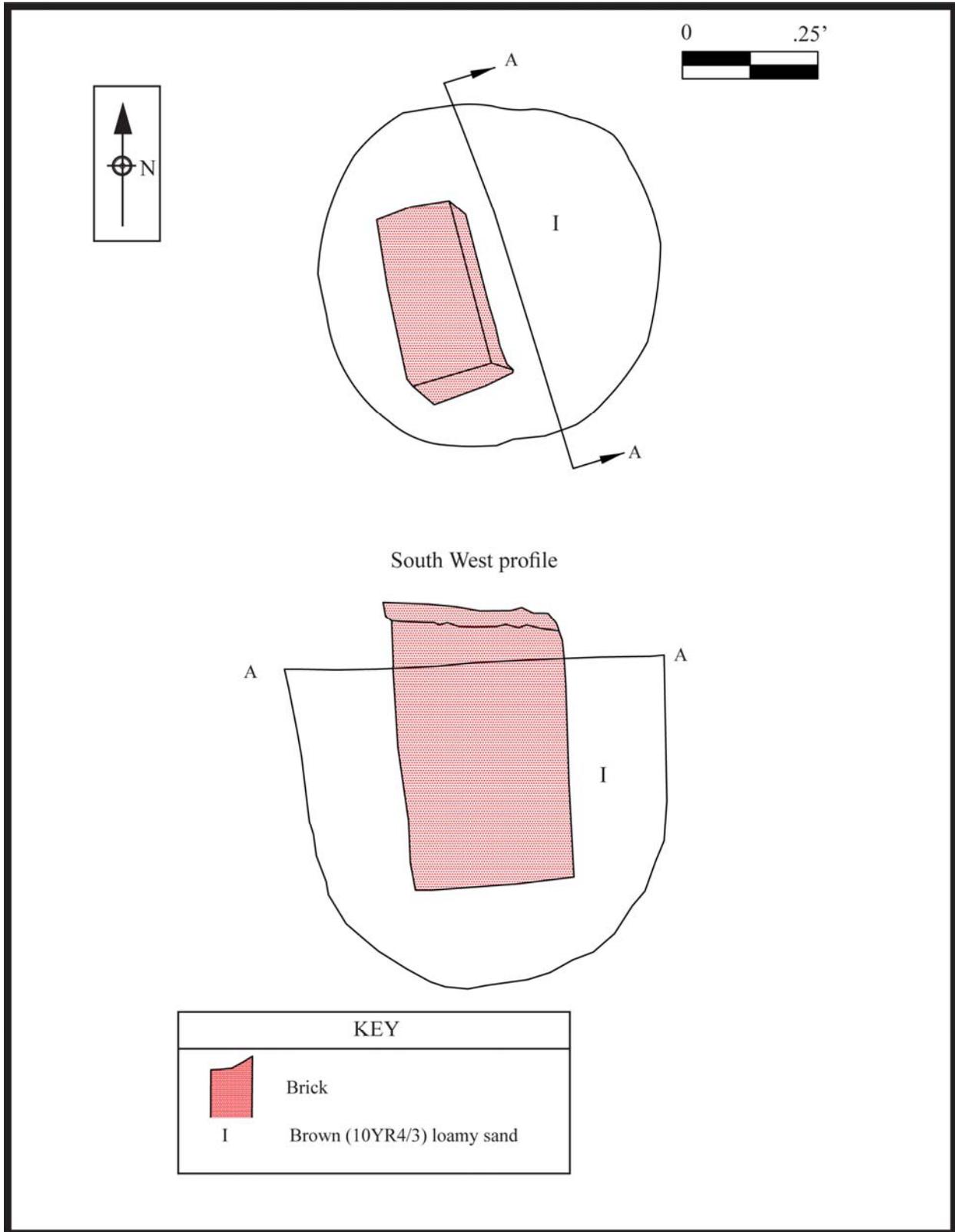


Figure 6.25 Feature 28 plan view and profile.

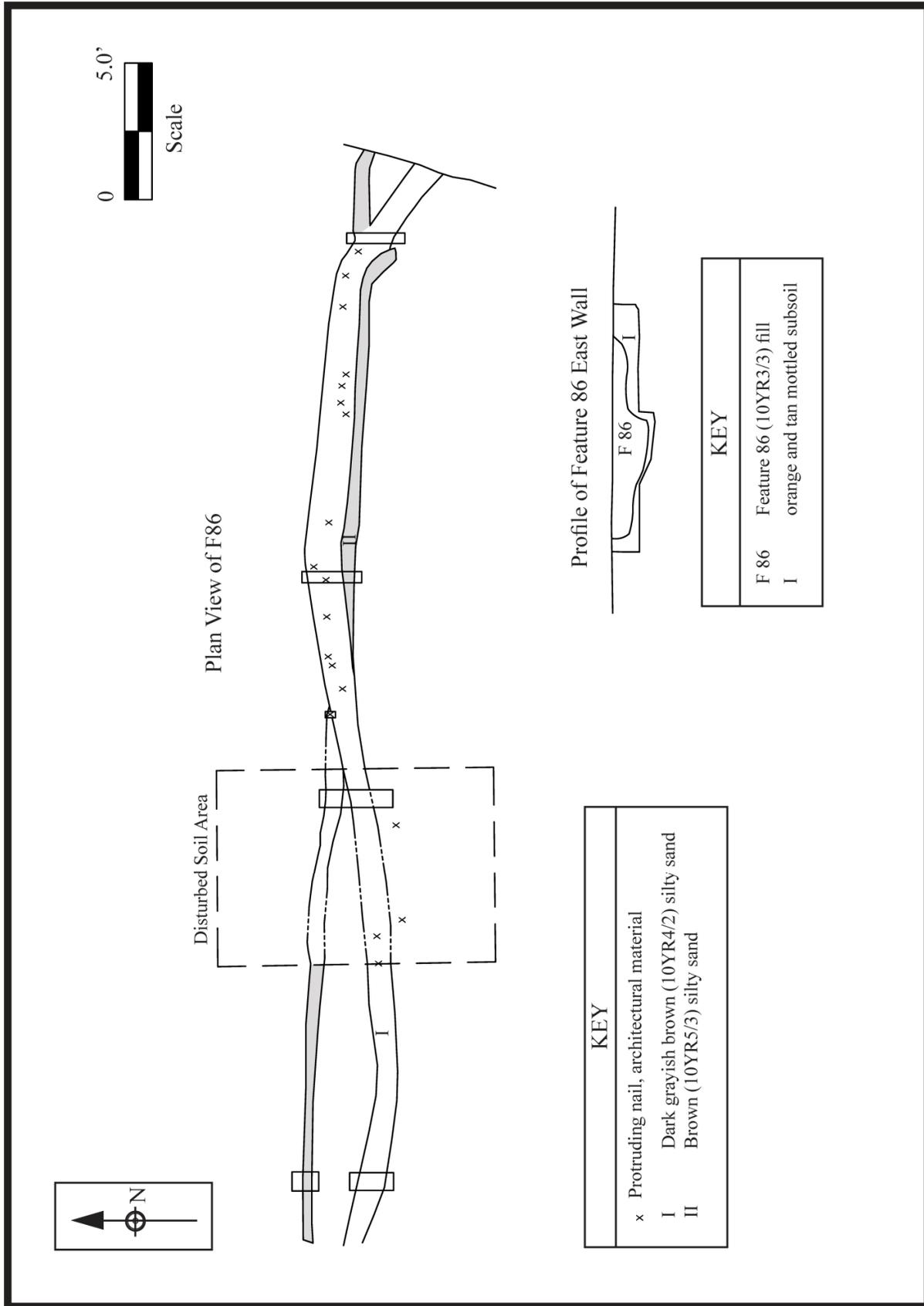


Figure 6.26 Feature 86 plan view and profile.



Figure 6.27 Feature 86 plan view.

two artifacts were collected from 86B—a piece of coal and a fragment of mold-blown bottle glass (TPQ 1864). What these two stains might be related to is unclear. The presence of nails along the surface of 86A suggests that it might have been associated with a structure or fence line. The length, orientation, and cross-section, however, suggest that they might be plow scars and not related to a fence line or structure.

**Feature 82.** Of the three features (82, 83, and 84) clustered near the south foundation (see Figure 6.6), only Feature 82 yielded any cultural material. It was roughly circular and measured 1.24 x 1.1 feet. Like many of the features exposed during the data-recovery investigations, Feature 82 was shallow, measuring only 0.23 feet deep, and contained fill consisting of brown (10YR 3/4) sandy loam. Only eight artifacts were recovered, including three pieces of window glass and five fragments from a metal wick holder.

**Feature 64.** Uncovered at the base of the plowzone during the excavation of Unit 26, Feature 64 was a rectangular pit or posthole that measured 1 foot (north-south) by 1.4 feet (east-west)(see Figure 6.6). The feature was bisected along its east-west axis and the north half was removed first. The fill consisted of a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with a pocket of light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty sand near the top of the feature. The cross-section revealed a vertical western wall, while the eastern side of Feature 64 sloped down more gradually to a depth of 0.8 feet below the top of the B horizon, at which point the wall changed to the vertical and continued for another 0.3 feet to the base of the feature (Figure 6.28). The artifacts recovered were few in number and include two pieces of window glass and an unidentifiable nail from the north half, along with two window glass fragments, one unidentifiable nail, and 12 fragments of thin sheet iron collected from the south half of the feature. None of these artifacts are datable.

### *The East Yard*

The east or front yard space of the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site was circumscribed by the house's proximity to Choptank Road. Only three features were uncovered in this area (Features 76, 77, and 81; see Figure 6.4). Feature 76 was large, irregular soil stain that produced no artifacts, and its function could not be interpreted. Features 77 and 81 were rectangular stains that produced one artifact each.

**Feature 77.** Located 2 feet east of the foundation, Feature 77 was a rectangular pit that measured 0.62 feet north-south and 1.6 feet east-west. Typical of this site, it was fairly shallow, reaching a maximum depth of 0.21 feet below the base of the plowzone (Figures 6.29 and 6.30). The feature matrix consisted of a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sandy loam. KSK bisected the feature into east and west halves; only one artifact, a blue glass bead, was collected.

**Feature 81.** Feature 81 was located immediately east of the foundation, and approximately 1 foot to the southwest of Feature 77. The feature, uncovered beneath the plowzone in Unit 20, was rectangular in plan, measuring 0.6 feet north-south by 0.76 feet east-west. Upon excavation, it proved to be 0.33 feet deep with a flat bottom. The excavated matrix consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine sandy loam that produced a single artifact—a rim sherd of flow blue ironstone/stone china, with gilding (1870–1910). Feature 81 was identified as a posthole, although no postmold was documented.

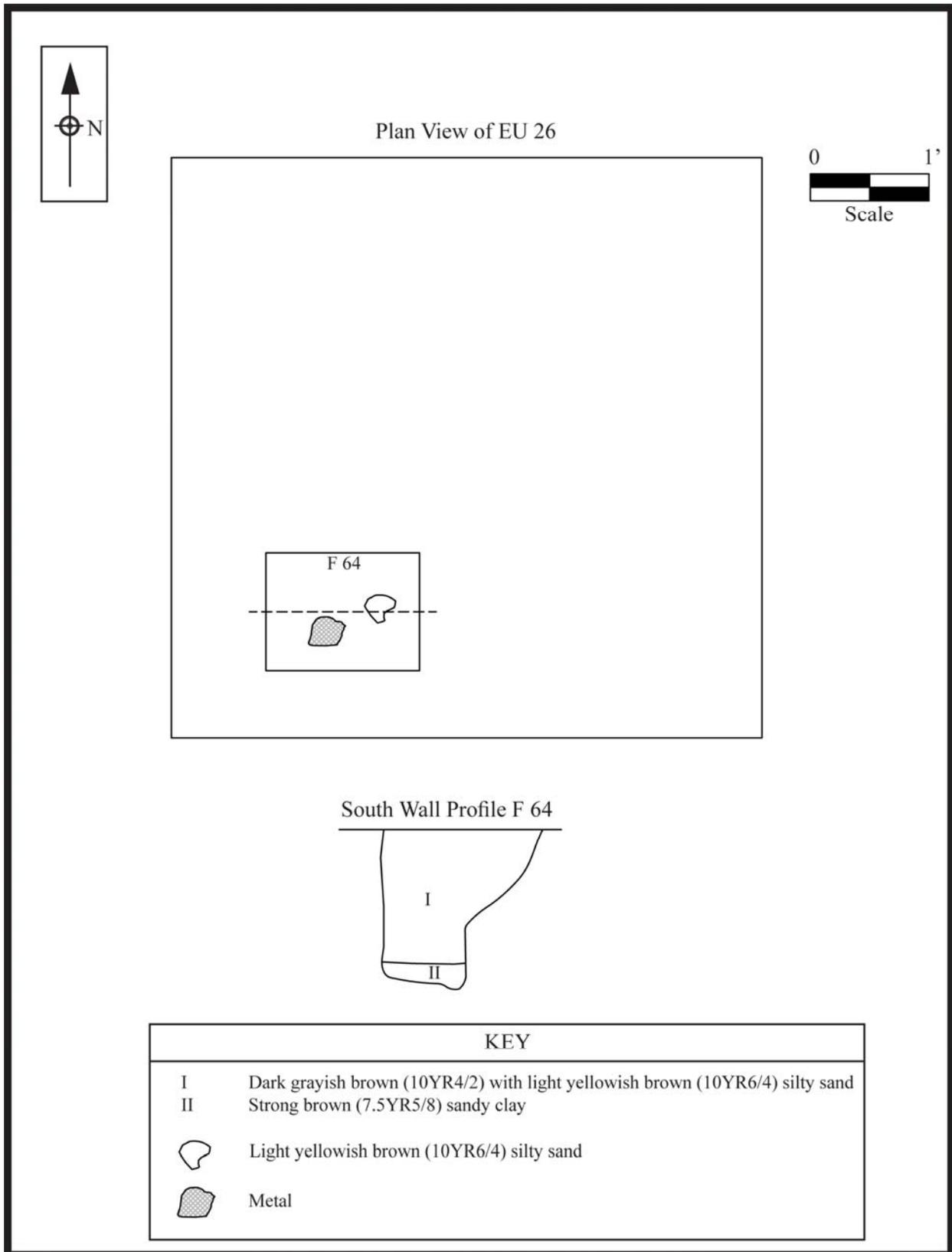


Figure 6.28 Feature 64 plan view and profile.

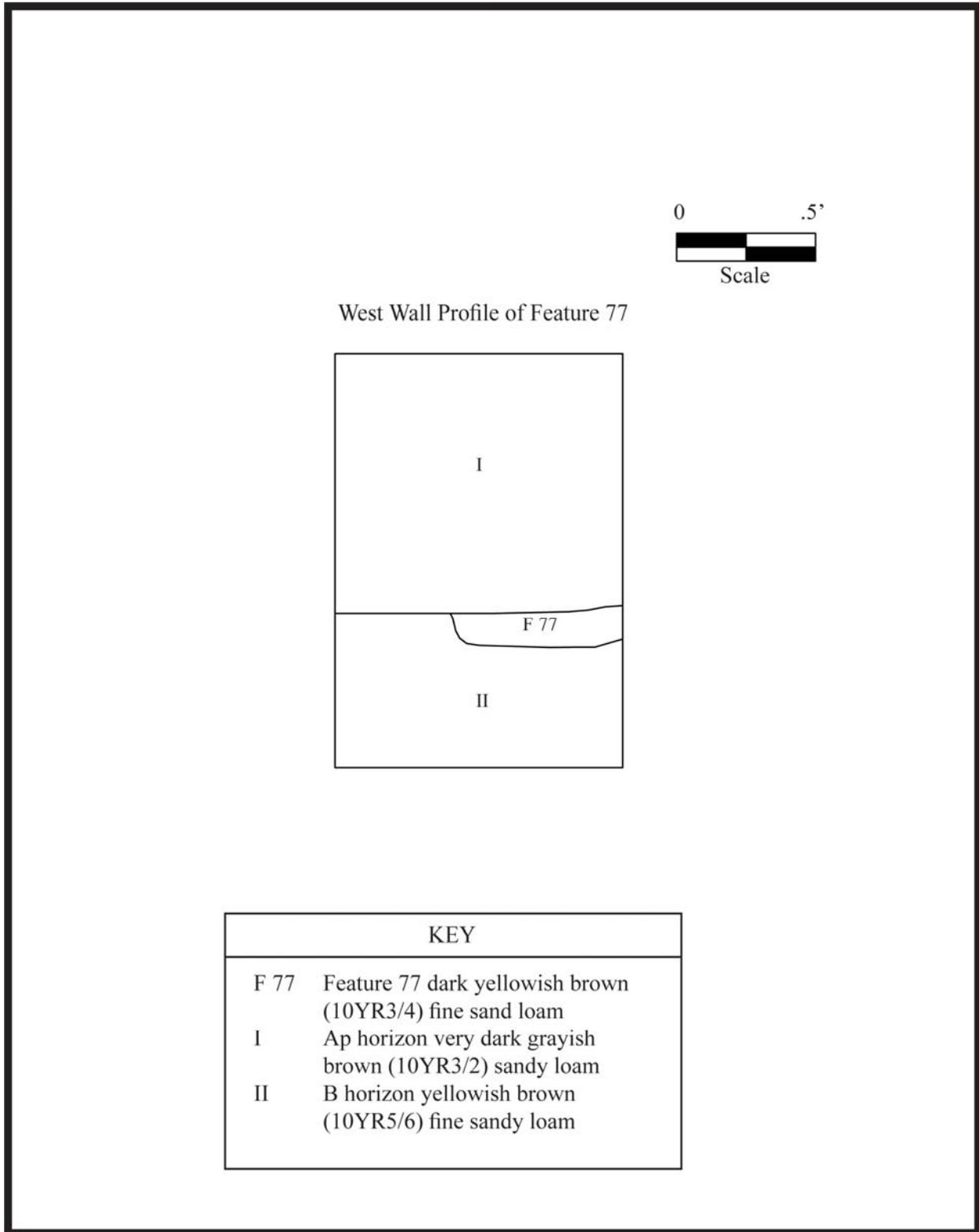


Figure 6.29 Feature 77 profile.



Figure 6.30 Feature 77 plan view.

### *The West Yard*

KSK's archaeological work in the west yard area was constrained by the limits of construction (LOC) extending in a north-south direction roughly 5 feet west of the foundation. Nonetheless, KSK uncovered six features in this small area (Features 34, 39, 40, 41, 46, and 62) (see Figure 6.4). Feature 40 was a drainage channel extending westward from the foundation. Features 39, 41, and 62 were posts. Feature 34 was a brick-lined shaft that appears to have been a well.

**Feature 34.** Located at the southwestern corner of the foundation (see Figure 6.4), KSK's excavation of EU 11 was intended to expose the "rear" or western wall of the brick foundation. Removal of the plowzone exposed a section of the foundation, as expected, as well as a roughly semi-circular stain encompassing all but the northeast corner of the unit and extending an unknown distance past the unit boundaries to the west and south (Figure 6.31). Excavation of the feature matrix in EU 11 required the removal of several distinct, often inter-fingered fill layers (designated Features 34A–D, Feature 34F, Feature 34H, and Feature 34I)(Figure 6.32), most of which contained limited quantities of artifacts dominated by nails, the majority of which were unidentifiable. Also recovered were examples of metal hardware, window glass, household items, primarily container glass, as well as ceramics (redware, whiteware, white granite, stoneware, porcelain), 22-caliber shell casings, lamp chimney glass, iron sheet fragments, and personal and clothing artifacts. Several bricks and unmodified fieldstones were found piled against the sloped eastern wall of the feature and extending from the top of the slope to the base; this section of the feature is in closest proximity to the foundation (Figure 6.33). The KSK excavators encountered a rough concrete block at the base of the plowzone (Figure 6.34) that was thought to represent a possible pier or support for a superstructure over Feature 34.

Of the 990 artifacts collected during the excavation of Feature 34 in Unit 11, 767 (77.5%) were recovered from Feature 34D. This feature was a mottled fill that continued downward in the southwest corner to the base of excavation at 3.5 feet below ground surface. The artifacts collected from this particular context in Unit 11 mainly consist of architectural items ( $n=400$ , or 52.2%) and household-related materials ( $n=170$ , or 22.2%). KSK also collected 102 fragments of sheet iron (13.3% of the 34D total), function unknown, as well as personal items (a vulcanite rubber comb, clothing rivets, part of a steel keychain, buttons, glass beads, pipe fragments), arms-related artifacts (22- and 38-caliber casings), hardware, toys (a cat's eye marble), and furnishings (mostly lamp glass, and part of a figurine). A TPQ of 1907 is provided via a bakelite mouthpiece from a tobacco pipe.

KSK consulted with DelDOT and DE SHPO about expanding the excavation, which resulted in permission to excavate a  $\frac{3}{4}$  unit (Unit 32) that encompassed the southwestern corner of EU 11 (see Figure 6.4), with the intent of exposing the majority of the feature and thereby determining its configuration and function (Figure 6.35). Unit 32 was excavated to a depth of 4 feet below ground surface, revealing the northern face of a dry-laid brick shaft feature, the top of which had evidently been truncated during demolition (Figures 6.36 and 6.37); the remaining western half of the feature extended farther outside of the LOC. Several courses of brick were exposed and the fill removed from inside the shaft to the depth of the water table. The western profile of EU 32 below the plowzone was comprised exclusively of feature fill and retained clear evidence of the removal of the uppermost courses of brick following the infilling of the shaft (see Figure 6.34).

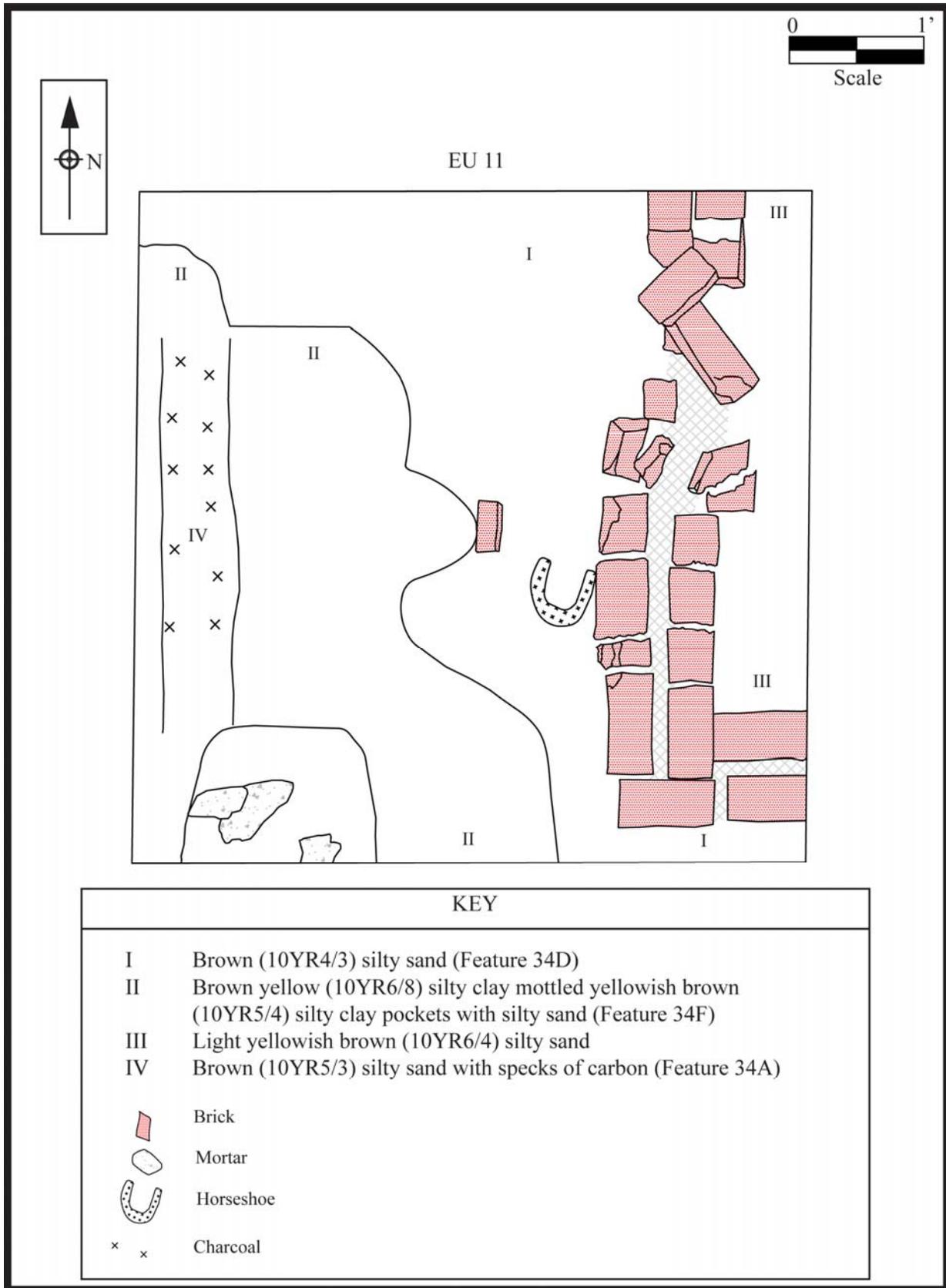


Figure 6.31 EU 11 plan view.

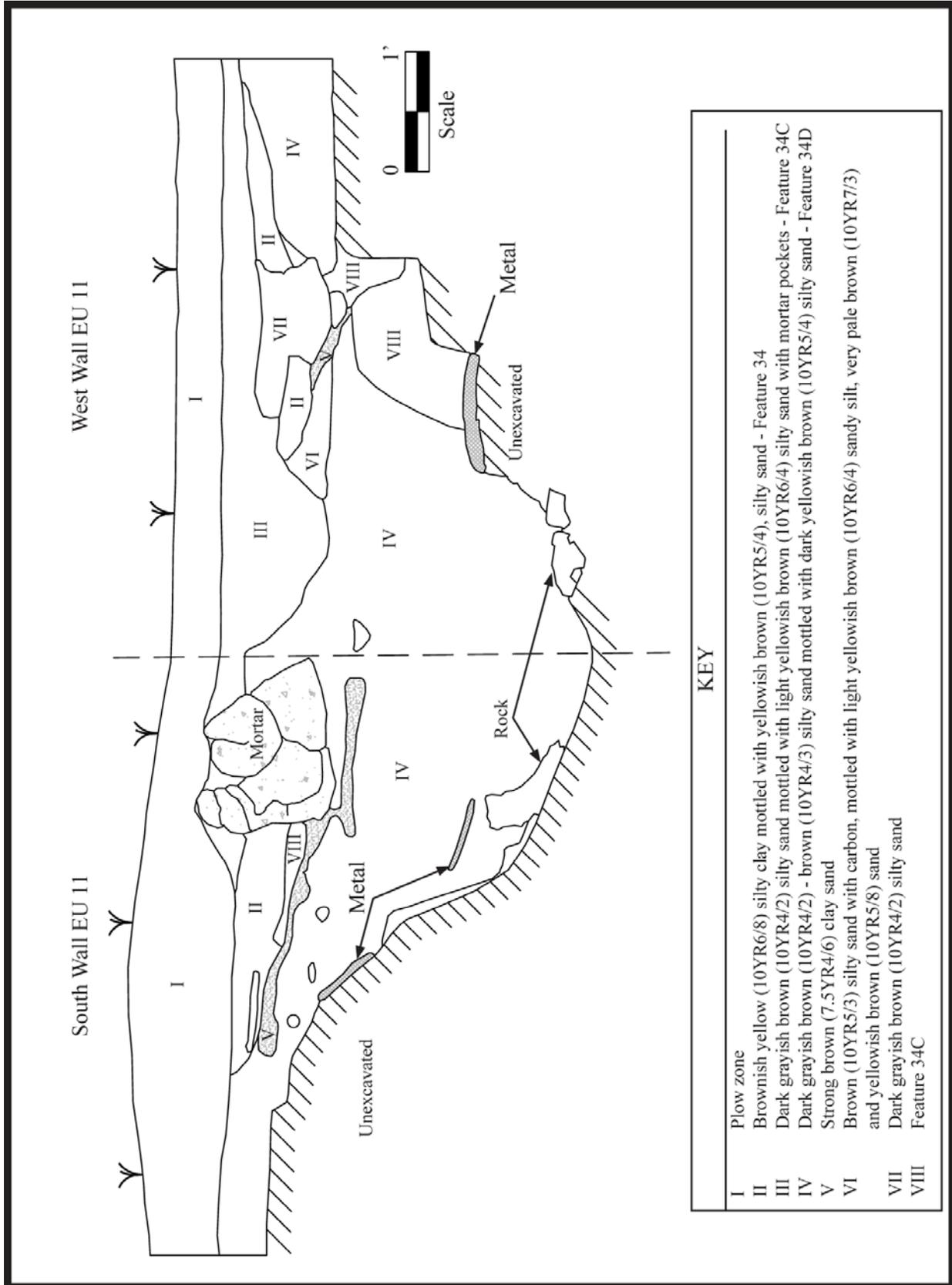


Figure 6.32 EU 11 profile.



Figure 6.33 Bricks and unmodified fieldstones in proximity to the foundation.

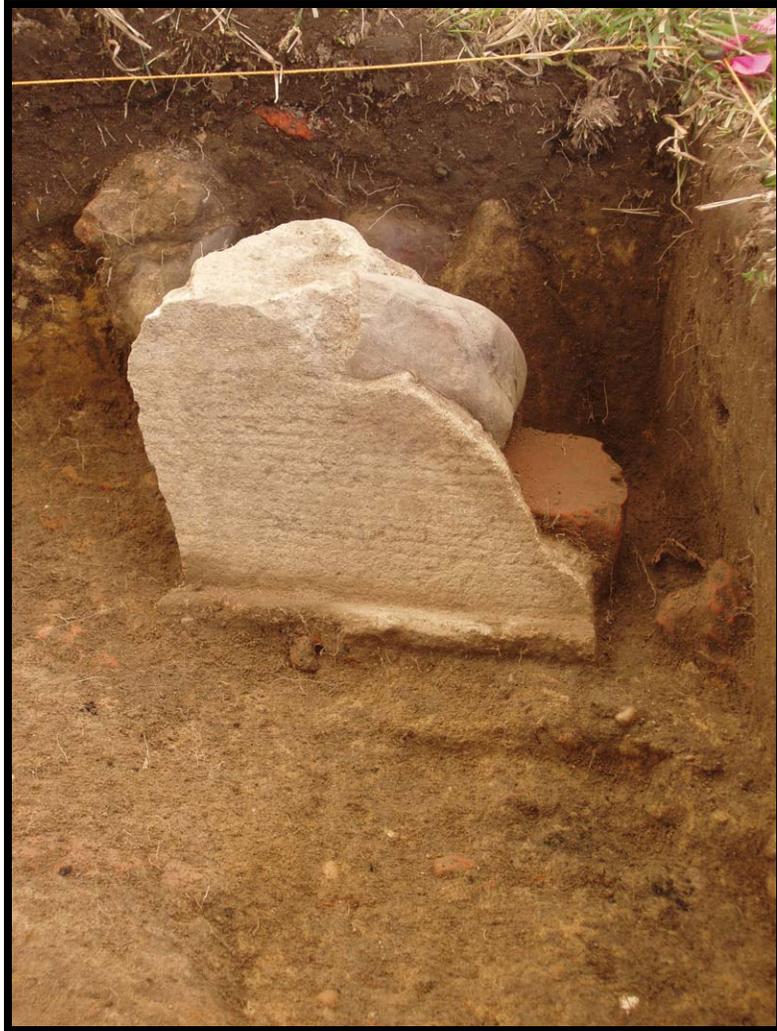


Figure 6.34 Concrete block at the base of the plowzone.

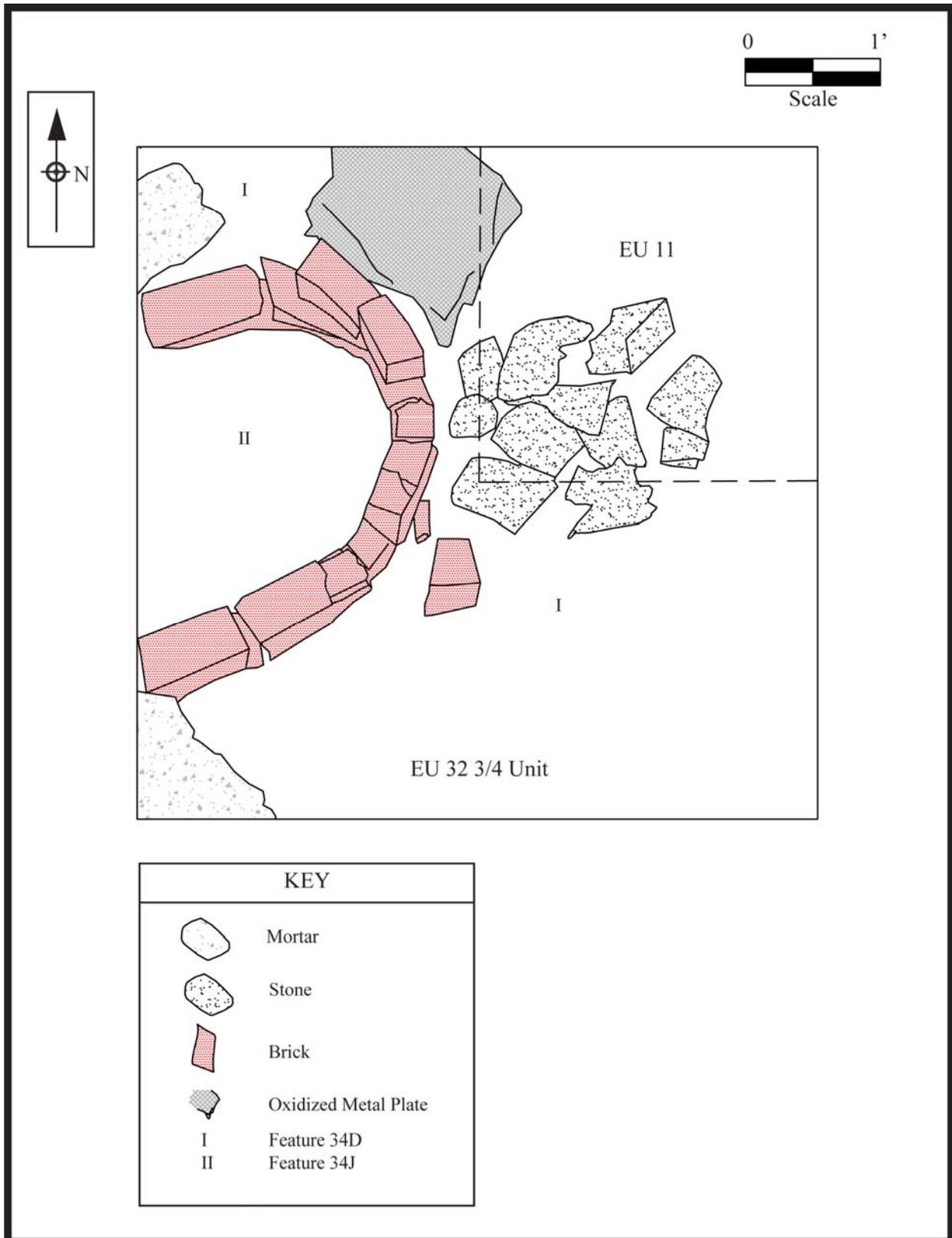


Figure 6.35 Detailed excavation of EU 32 within EU 11.





Figure 6.37 Feature 34 plan view.

Several of the fill strata first noted in EU 11 were also present in EU 32, including 34C, 34D, 34F, 34H, and 34I. Not surprisingly, Feature 34D in the southwest corner of EU 11 continued to dip downward toward the northern arm of EU 32. Early on in the excavation of EU 32, KSK determined that, because the fill strata over and around the feature were so intermingled and it had become virtually impossible to effectively separate them out, it was better to designate them all as Feature 34D and to excavate them in 0.35-foot arbitrary levels. At approximately 2 feet below surface, the excavators encountered a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) to 10YR 6/8 silty sand with mortar inclusions. Designated Feature 34J, this particular context seemed to be restricted to a semi-circular area in the western portion of the unit. As 34J was taken down in arbitrary levels, the amount of mortar and the number of large brick fragments increased with depth. At about 2.5 feet below ground surface, and beneath the outer edges of Feature 34J, the excavators began encountering an *in situ* curved brick wall that extended to the west, outside of EU 32. It was now becoming evident that Feature 34J was the interior fill of a brick-lined shaft feature, the upper portions of which had been robbed out. In EU 32, KSK archaeologists removed five arbitrary levels (6–10) of 34J, until they encountered the water table at 3.5 feet below surface. These five levels yielded a total of 305 artifacts, dominated by architectural items ( $n=196$ ) that represent 64.3% of the Feature 34J collection. Most are unidentifiable nails, with the rest of the material consisting of cut and wire nails, window glass, brick fragments, pieces of mortar, painted plaster, cement, and sewer pipe. The household items from the shaft fill ( $n=29$ , or 9.5%) mostly consist of container glass fragments; ceramics were present but in only limited quantities, and include a few fragments of white granite and hard paste porcelain. KSK also recovered a glass bead, arms-related artifacts, a bottle embossed with HOLMES FRAGRANT FROSTILLA, ELMIRA, NY (advertised as a skin conditioner/moisturizer), iron hardware, several buttons, thin iron fragments, and lamp chimney glass. The TPQ for Feature 34J as a whole is 1940, based on the presence of automobile headlight glass scattered among several of the arbitrary levels (Levels 6–8).

As the interior fill was being removed, excavation was also taking place outside the structure. Feature 34D was excavated in a series of seven arbitrary levels (Levels 3–9) that extended to the base of excavation at 3.5 feet below surface. It was obvious that this was not a natural deposit, given the quantity of artifacts recovered: 714 artifacts collected from these seven levels. The highest concentrations occurred in the upper five levels, which yielded between 91 and 141 artifacts each. The most highly represented artifact group in the Feature 34D collection was, not surprisingly, architectural items ( $n=277$ , or 38.8%), the majority of which consist of unidentifiable nails. Household artifacts ( $n=168$ ) accounted for nearly one quarter of the collection and mainly consisted of glass fragments (in most cases these could not be identified as to form), along with smaller numbers of ceramic sherds (predominately white granite with smaller quantities of, whiteware, Rockingham, ironstone, and porcelain.). KSK also recovered fragments of lamp globe/chimney glass, cartridge casings (mostly 22-caliber long, several 22-caliber short, and two 10-gauge shotgun shell bases), personal items (buttons and comb fragments), and a number of automobile-related artifacts, including Chevrolet headlight glass and window/windshield safety glass. Finally, Feature 34D also yielded 165 (23.1% of the collection) artifacts that fall into the “unknown” category. The vast majority of these are thin iron fragments that could not be identified in terms of their function. The TPQs for these seven levels ranged from as recent as 1940 (Levels 3–5), based on headlight glass, to as early as 1887

(Level 7), based on a Winchester rim fire 22-caliber cartridge casing. The remaining dates all fall within the early twentieth century (1907, 1908, and 1915).

Additional investigation of Feature 34 in a limited area outside of the LOC was conducted in August 2007, and two excavation units (EU 35 and 36) were placed to the west of EU 32, in effect wrapping around the western half of that unit. The objective was to uncover the remainder of Feature 34, both the western end of the brick-lined shaft and the builder's trench (Figures 6.38–6.40). The shaft fill exposed in these two units was, naturally enough, consistent with the fill excavated in EU 32. In EU 35 the fill was designated Feature 34J, and in EU 36 it was termed Strata IV, V, and VI, with the upper strata consisting of mixed deposits that overlay the shaft. The removal of the plowzone and upper feature fill revealed an oval brick shaft with the long axis (and therefore the narrow end) oriented toward the foundation and the brick and fieldstone debris noted in EU 11 (Figure 6.41). Dimensions of the brick shaft, as measured from the exterior of the brick, are 4.2 feet northeast/southwest by 3 feet northwest/southeast. Removal of the fill from the interior of the shaft was restricted by the confines of the brick itself, as well as by safety concerns and the water table; excavation of the shaft fill was terminated at 6.9 feet below ground surface.

The interior fill deposits excavated in EUs 35 and 36 yielded a total of 259 artifacts. Not unexpectedly, the material recovered from these deposits was similar in type and percentage to that collected from EU 32. Architectural items ( $n=176$ ) once again dominated, accounting for 67.9% of the items recovered, while household artifacts ( $n=27$ ) represent only an additional 10.4%. The rest of the collection consists of iron sheet fragments, personal/clothing items (buttons mainly), lamp globe/chimney glass, several pieces of plastic, coal, a porcelain electrical insulator, and shell. Interestingly, KSK didn't recover any auto headlight glass from this portion of the interior fill. As a result, the TPQs from this part of the feature tend to be somewhat earlier. The most recent datable artifact from the fill is a flask from 34J, Level 14, with the embossed inscription "Hambro Distilling Co Balto. MD. U.S.A."; the Hambro Distilling Company was in operation between 1903–1908. The remaining TPQs range from 1805 to 1900, with most beginning dates of manufacture falling between 1864 and 1878.

Following the conclusion of Feature 34's hand excavation, KSK employed a backhoe in an attempt to define the bottom of the shaft feature. Soil was machine excavated from the southeast corner of the feature to expose the brick face of the shaft. None of this sterile subsoil was screened. The wide builder's trench surrounding the feature (nearly 3 feet wide at the top) tapered inwards with depth. The water table was encountered at 8 feet below ground surface and limited the visibility of any deeper excavation—compromising the integrity of the surrounding soil matrices and thereby creating unsafe working conditions. At a depth of 6.5 feet below ground surface, KSK observed wood sheathing along the entirety of the exposed shaft. Composed of vertical boards set in simple butt joints with the adjacent board, each plank is placed flush against the brick shaft. The total length and depth of this sheathing could not be determined during the machine excavation because of the forced final excavation depth. However, KSK conducted a manual investigation of the boards that indicated they are at least 4 feet in length, and extend some 10.5 feet below ground surface. This depth is the termination depth of the Feature 34 investigation, after which non-organic tarps were laid inside the shaft and the interior cavity was backfilled in an effort to preserve the undisturbed deeper portion of the

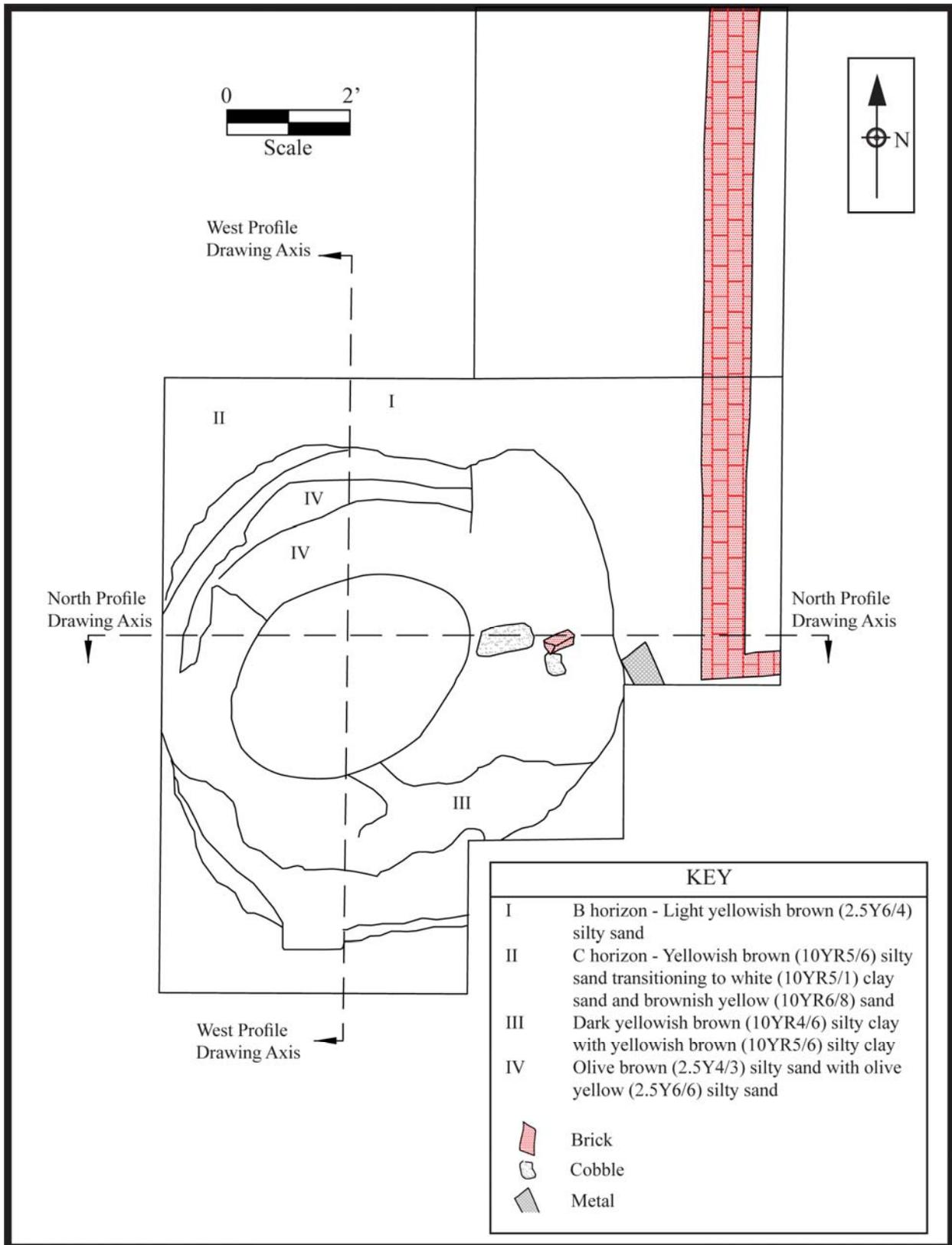


Figure 6.38 Feature 34 plan view.

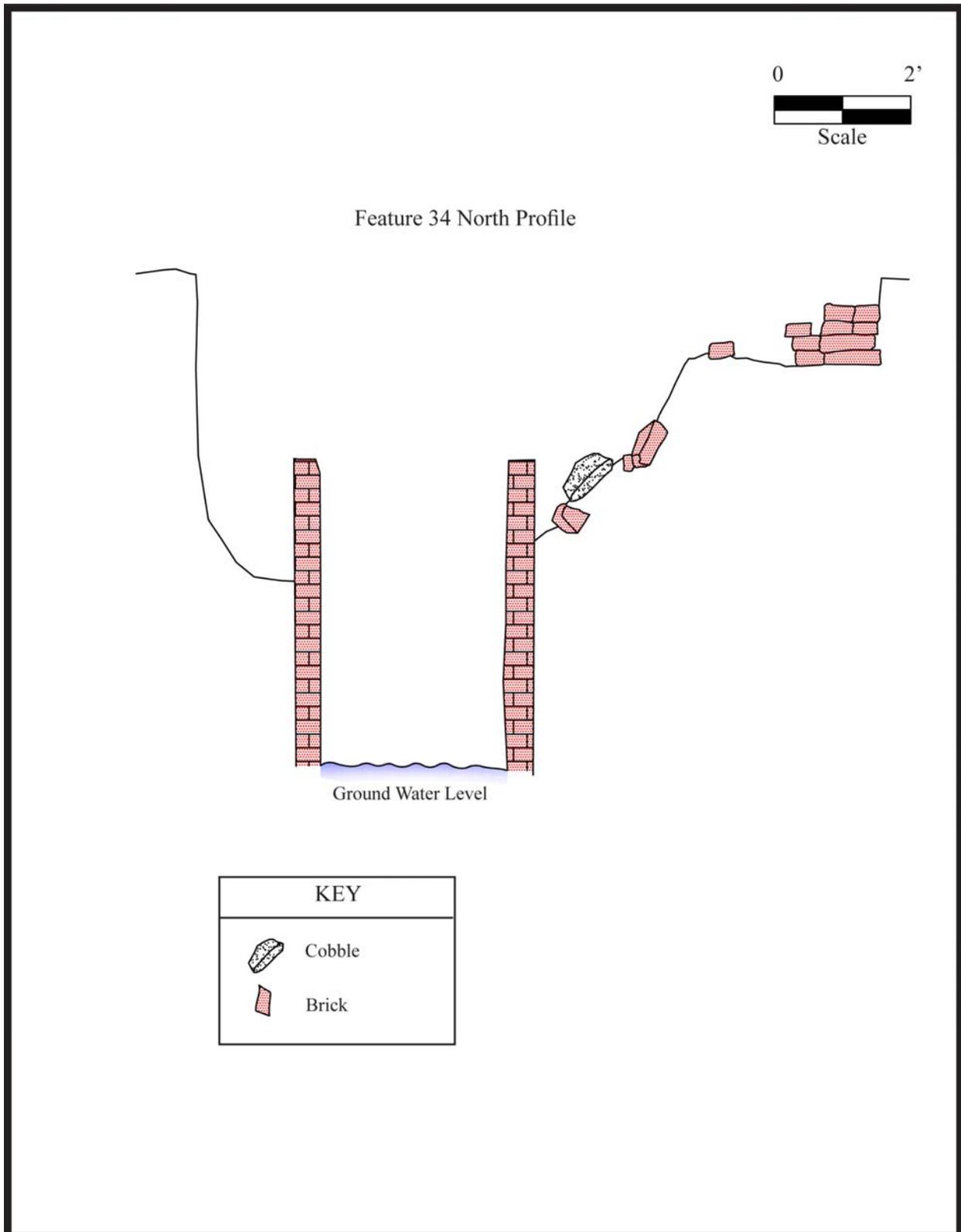


Figure 6.39 Feature 34 north profile.

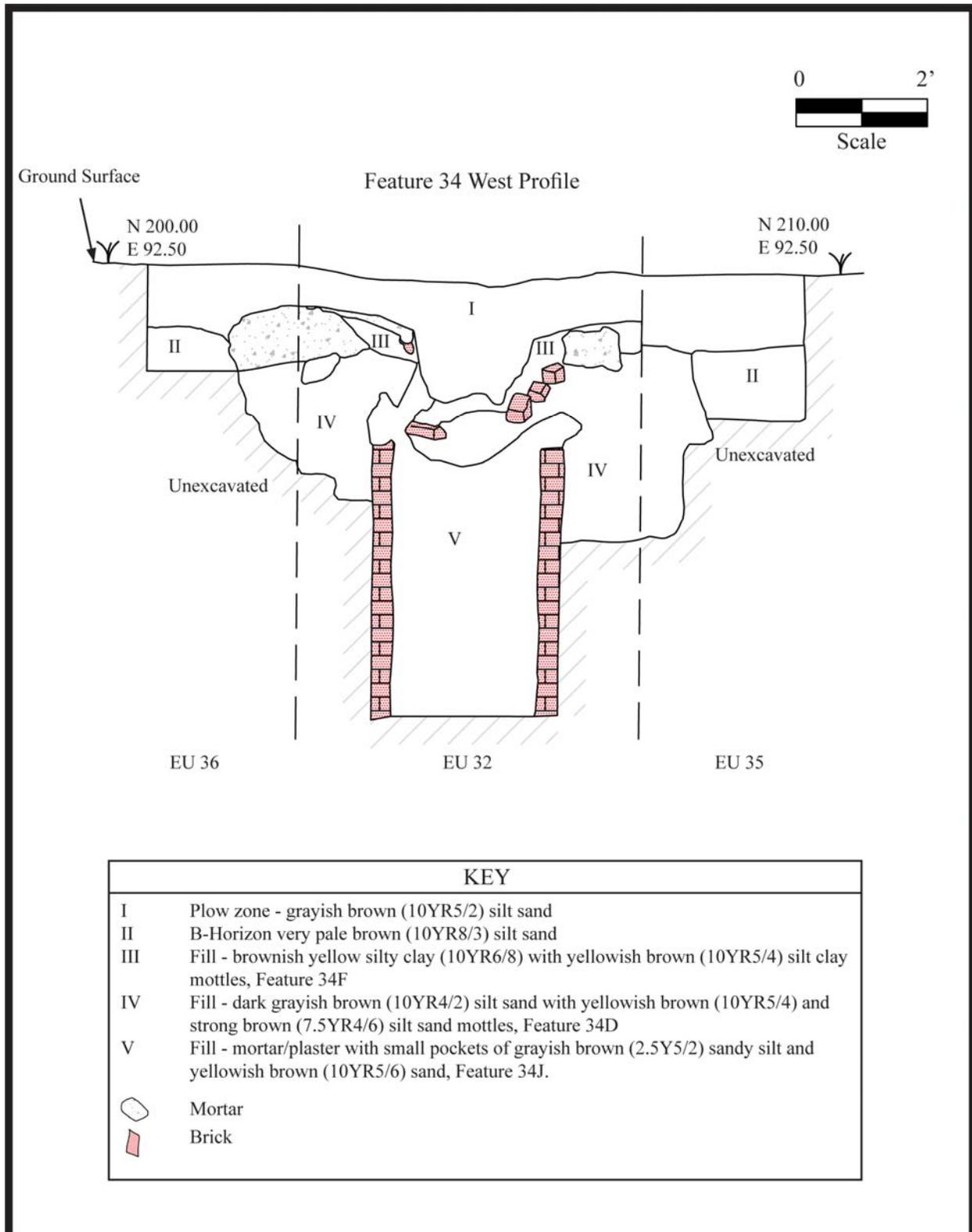


Figure 6.40 Feature 34 west profile.



Figure 6.41 EUs 32, 35, and 36 plan view.

shaft feature in place. Plywood sheets were laid across the top of the brick shaft and the remainder of the area was backfilled.

Feature 34 most likely served as a well. It was somewhat crudely built, possibly as late as the early twentieth century, based on datable artifacts collected from Feature 34D, the backfilled builder's trench surrounding the shaft. The site's occupants dug a deep circular pit, 10 feet or more in depth, and constructed a free-standing brick cylinder, with the wood sheathing perhaps used to keep the bricks in place and properly aligned. However, once the well reached a height of approximately 6 feet (above the base of machine excavation), the cylindrical shape gave way to a more oval configuration that continued to the top of the shaft. Because of demolition disturbance, it was not clear if the well had any sort of structure built over it. Based on the datable artifacts collected from the interior fill, Feature 34 appears to have been filled sometime after 1940, most likely around the time the site was abandoned. The fill material appears to be associated with the demolition of the dwelling, given the large quantity of plaster and other architectural materials. It was at this time that the upper portion of the well was truncated.

Several other, rather less spectacular, features were also uncovered in the west yard (Features 39–41, 46, and 62). Feature 39 was uncovered during the excavation of the upper deposits (Feature 34B) associated with Feature 34 in Unit 11. Located along the unit's west wall (see Figure 6.3), the feature was square in plan (measuring 0.6 x 0.6 feet) and proved to be 0.3 feet deep. The fill consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand that yielded a number of artifacts, including window and bottle glass, bone, nail fragments, and metal; none of this material was datable. Feature 39 was thought to be a post.

**Feature 40.** When first exposed in Unit 11 between Feature 34 and the brick foundation (Feature 15) (see Figure 6.3), Feature 40 was thought to be a post. However, excavation revealed the feature to be shallow pit or channel (no more than 0.08 feet deep) that extended beneath the western foundation. No artifacts were recovered from the brown (10YR 4/3) matrix.

**Feature 41.** A post uncovered in Unit 11 (see Figure 6.3) immediately north of Feature 34, Feature 41 consisted of both a posthole and postmold. The posthole was rectangular, with the long axis extending 0.6 feet north-south; its east-west axis was 0.35 feet wide. Excavation revealed it to be shallow (except where the post had been set), extending to a depth of 0.3 feet; the posthole matrix consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silt mottled with yellowish brown (10YR 5/4). The postmold, set against the north end of the posthole, was square and measured 0.35 x 0.35 feet; it extended to a depth of 0.8 feet. The matrix of the postmold consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silt. The postmold yielded several artifacts, including a brick fragment, unidentifiable metal, and glass. A piece of metal and a bone fragment were collected from the posthole.

**Feature 46.** Feature 46 was yet another posthole/postmold feature, located adjacent to Feature 41 (see Figure 6.3). It was similar to Feature 41 in terms of matrix and dimensions, although the postmold was rectangular (0.4 x 0.15 feet) rather than square. Nine artifacts were recovered—two pieces of window glass from the postmold, and three metal fragments and four faunal items from the posthole.

**Feature 62.** Feature 62 was uncovered beneath the plowzone along the western edge of Units 6 and 9. Only partially exposed, it measured 0.7 feet north-south and 0.2 feet east-west. Excavation showed the feature to be shallow, no more than 0.15 feet deep. No artifacts were recovered.

### SUMMARY

The Phase II and III field investigations at Site 7NC-F-94 uncovered the remains of a dwelling, represented by a brick footing, a well immediately west of the house, and a variety of other features, including pits, postholes plowscars, and what may be the remains of a fence line or drainage ditch. Despite the number and variety of historic features documented at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site (no pre-Contact features were uncovered), none could be reliably identified as the remains of outbuildings. Likewise, the excavations did not uncover any evidence for garden plots (Features 128 and 129 might represent the ditching around such a plot, but this could not be conclusively demonstrated) or other clear-cut activity areas, although the cultivation of the site may have largely effaced such evidence. Nonetheless, KSK's fieldwork did result in the recovery of important evidence regarding the occupation of the site. Thousands of artifacts were collected during the excavations, mostly from the plowzone, but from the features as well—a substantial quantity having been recovered from the various components of Feature 34 (the well, builder's trench, and overlying demolition layers). Most of the other features excavated yielded few artifacts, with only Features 25, 26, 37, and 85 producing more than 100 finds each. In each of these four instances, the artifacts consist mainly of architectural items, with smaller numbers of household-related and other finds, a pattern seen across the site as a whole.

One feature stands apart: Feature 26. Although it yielded what can be considered the typical assemblage characteristic of Site 7NC-F-94, the possibly deliberate placement of several of the artifacts—most notably the horseshoe and the iron ax head—point to something more than simple refuse disposal. Rather, the presence and arrangement of these items may point to spiritual practices with roots in Africa.